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Japan

'Sources' on Response to IMF Call for Stimulus
OW2004131494 Tokyo KYODO in English 1244 GMT
 20 Apr 94

[KYODO embargoes following item for release at 2200 GMT on 20 April]

[Text] Tokyo, April 21 KYODO—Japan is unlikely to respond to fresh prodding from the International Monetary Fund (IMF) for more steps to boost its sluggish economy, sources said Thursday [21 April].

"It's hard to think of what we might do," a government source said. An international financial source said no new steps are likely as the effects of measures taken thus far are likely to be enough.

Coming in a report just days before a gathering Sunday of finance leaders from seven major industrial nations, the nudge from the IMF is sure to be a topic at the Washington meeting.

The report sees a mere 0.7 percent real economic growth for Japan this year, the weakest of the Group of Seven (G-7) nations and 2.3 percent in 1995. "For the upswing to gain sufficient momentum, continued fiscal support and a further easing of monetary conditions may well be required," it says.

Those steps include a record 15 trillion yen stimulus package in March and a series of official discount rate cuts to bring the key lending rate to a record low 1.75 percent a year.

Bank of Japan Governor Yasushi Mieno denied Tuesday that he is considering cutting the discount rate again and warned about inflation and overheating from "an over-ambitious macroeconomic policy to rectify the internal imbalances."

A Finance Ministry official noted that the IMF report says "bilateral trade and current account positions are clearly not an appropriate focus for trade policy" and that trade disputes should be solved "in a manner that is consistent with multilateral principles."

Tokyo Must Alter 'Tactics' in Talks With U.S.
OW2004083194 Tokyo KYODO in English 0802 GMT
 20 Apr 94

[Text] Tokyo, April 20 KYODO—Japan should alter its tactics in stalled trade talks with the United States to persuade Washington it is serious about rectifying the bilateral trade gap, a chief Japanese trade envoy said Wednesday.

Nobuo Matsunaga, the Japanese Government's representative for external economic affairs, said in a speech in Tokyo that Japan should avoid reaching agreement under the threat of trade sanctions, as in the case of a mobile phone trade agreement last month.

Matsunaga, a former Japanese ambassador to the U.S., met U.S. Trade Representative Mickey Kantor in Washington earlier this month in an effort to break an impasse in the so-called bilateral framework talks.

Matsunaga said Kantor told him there will be no chance of improving bilateral economic relations unless Japan takes measures, such as tax cuts, to maintain economic growth led by domestic demand.

Matsunaga said a new Japanese Government has to hammer out tax and other pump-priming measures by June before the summit of the Group of Seven industrial nations in July in Naples, where the new Japanese prime minister will meet U.S. President Bill Clinton. But Matsunaga expressed concern that things will not go smoothly because the new government would first be required to deal with the overdue fiscal 1994 budget.

The new Tokyo government is expected to be inaugurated as early as Thursday following Prime Minister Morihiro Hosokawa's announcement April 8 that he would step down over shady financial deals involving his office.

UN Call for NATO Bombers Authority Supported
OW2004093594 Tokyo KYODO in English 0914 GMT
 20 Apr 94

[Text] Tokyo, April 20 KYODO—Japan's ambassador to the United Nations Yoshio Hatano expressed support Wednesday [20 April] for a request by U.N. Secretary General Butrus Butrus-Ghali for the North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO) to give him the authority to order air strikes against Bosnian Serb forces.

Hatano said, "The U.N. has neither sufficient military capability nor financial means, so it is quite natural that it asked NATO to cooperate in making up for its limited military capability." Hatano made the remark at the Japan National Press Club two days after Butrus-Ghali requested that NATO authorize him to order air strikes by NATO planes against Bosnian Serb war machines.

Nato's 16-member decision-making meeting, the North Atlantic Council, is to decide on Butrus-Ghali's request later Wednesday.

Hatano, who has served at the U.N. Headquarters in New York for four years, is to be replaced by former Vice Foreign Minister Hisashi Owada soon.

U.S. bombers under NATO command destroyed a Serbian tank and other military machines as the Serbs pushed into the U.N.-designated safe area of Gorazde last week. NATO and U.N. officials said the strikes were conducted not to deter the Serbs from taking territory but to comply with the U.N. request to do so in order to protect peacekeepers from the U.N. protection forces.

However, after the limited NATO action was suspended, Serbian forces stormed into Gorazde and threatened to attack the northern Bosnian corridor around the town of Brcko as their next target.

Butrus-Ghali's request was for NATO to authorize him to order air strikes to prevent the Serbs from killing more Bosnian Muslims in Bosnia-Herzegovina.

"Serbian forces may initiate a large-scale offensive as soon as they hear NATO say it is not going to intervene militarily," Hatano said. "Although decisive military intervention may not be desirable...the U.N. could deter Serbian aggression effectively by threatening that NATO planes might make other strikes," he said.

Hatano called on NATO to comply with Butrus-Ghali's plea, saying, "Mr. Butrus-Ghali said during his official visit to Japan in February last year the most crucial need for the United Nations is how to secure and maintain cooperation from regional security organizations" like NATO.

Russia, a traditional ally of Serbia, has balked at the further use of NATO warplanes, saying it might involve the U.N. in the conflict in Bosnia-Herzegovina.

Meanwhile, Hatano urged the Japanese to accept the notion of "peace with justice," saying the international community "has questioned the Japanese attitude that peace is equivalent to justice."

"The international community believes it should intervene even with military force to restore justice, as in Yugoslavia and Somalia," he said.

Hatano asked the Japanese to give more thought to the plight of people in faraway countries, noting that European and U.S. television and newspapers often devote their top news slots to "the agony of starving Somalis or Yugoslavian children being evacuated from Sarajevo with their mothers left behind."

"The Japanese have to learn to develop an interest in events all over the world," he said.

Former JNP Members Launch 'Group Seian' Party

OW2004062094 Tokyo KYODO in English 0549 GMT 20 Apr 94

[Text] Tokyo, April 20 KYODO—Six defectors from the Liberal Democratic Party (LDP) and an independent formed a new parliamentary group Wednesday [20 April], while three others from the Japan New Party (JNP) also launched a new group.

The bigger group that combines seven members of the House of Representatives announced the inauguration of "Jiyuto" (Liberal Party) at a news conference.

Six members—Koji Kakizawa, Seiichi Ota, Shokei Arai, Shizuo Sato, Taku Yamamoto and Kenzo Yoneda—left the main opposition party earlier this week expressing

support for former Foreign Minister Michio Watanabe's bid for premiership. The seventh person, Sanae Takaiuchi, was an independent.

Kakizawa, a former parliamentary vice foreign minister, heads the new party.

Meanwhile, the three JNP defectors, all House of Representatives members, launched "Group Seian [Blue Cloud]."

The members are Fumihiko Igarashi, Sakihito Ozawa and Akio Nakajima, who tendered their resignations Sunday to Prime Minister Morihiro Hosokawa, head of the JNP. The three men, in quitting the JNP, issued a statement critical of moves toward a realignment of political parties, as led by Shinseitō [Japan Renewal Party] and Komeitō [Clean Government Party].

Jiyuto was inaugurated two days after five other LDP defectors launched a new party named New Party Mirai (Future) on Monday. In the upcoming Diet election to select a successor to Hosokawa, Jiyuto is expected to field its own candidate.

Since last Friday, 12 LDP lower house members have seceded from the party.

Diet Election Postponed to 22 Apr 'or Later'

OW2004090694 Tokyo KYODO in English 0850 GMT 20 Apr 94

[Text] Tokyo, April 20 KYODO—The Diet is expected to hold the prime ministerial election Friday or later, coalition officials said Wednesday. The prospect emerged after the House of Representatives Steering Committee agreed not to convene the vote-taking plenary session Thursday.

Efforts among ruling coalition parties to set policies before picking a successor to outgoing Prime Minister Morihiro Hosokawa are floundering over differences on tax reform and national security, coalition sources said.

Hiraiwa on Prospect of Hata as Prime Minister

OW2004101894 Tokyo KYODO in English 0945 GMT 20 Apr 94

[Text] Tokyo, April 20 KYODO—Gaishi Hiraiwa, chairman of the Federation of Economic Organizations, Wednesday [20 April] welcomed the prospect of Foreign Minister Tsutomu Hata becoming Japan's new prime minister, saying he could provide stable leadership.

"Agreement has almost been reached on the principal policies. The new government will probably have more stability," Hiraiwa said.

The business leader said it is "not a bad thing" that the new government is taking time to form. "The coalition parties are trying to bring their views together. This implies that a firm framework will be established," Hiraiwa said.

Some differences in opinion may appear, however, when important policies are actually put into effect, he warned.

Commenting on fledgling signs of economic pickup, Hiraiwa noted that although consumer spending is improving, businesses are still taking time to recover. "But I don't think the economy will be like last year," he said, pointing to the lack of economic comeback in 1993.

He said the appreciation of the yen against the dollar will be central to judging corporate performance in the future.

Coalition Bid To Settle Policy Issues Fails

OW2004114894 Tokyo KYODO in English 1133 GMT 20 Apr 94

[Text] Tokyo, April 20 KYODO—The ruling coalition parties remained at loggerheads with one another during talks to narrow policy gaps over crucial elements of tax system reform and Japan's response to the suspected North Korean nuclear arms development program, coalition sources said Wednesday.

The coalition parties are trying to close their gaps before picking a successor to outgoing Prime Minister Morihiro Hosokawa, whose eight-month administration faced repeated difficulties due to an intracoalition rift over policies. As a result, a meeting of coalition chiefs to nominate Hosokawa's successor was not held Wednesday, and the Diet is expected to hold the prime ministerial election Friday or later, the sources said.

The prospect emerged after the House of Representatives Steering Committee agreed to postpone the vote-taking session scheduled for Thursday to Friday or later.

Representatives of the coalition partners held on-and-off bargaining Wednesday to reconcile their differences over proposed tax system reform and how to ensure Japan's safety in the face of alleged North Korean efforts to develop nuclear arms.

The secretaries general of the coalition parties banded together shortly after 7 P.M. [1000 GMT] in the latest bid to close the differences but adjourned only nine minutes later.

The deputy chiefs of the Social Democratic Party (SDP), Shinseito [Japan Renewal Party], Komeito, Japan New Party, the Democratic Socialist Party, the Democratic Reform Party and Keikaku no Kai, a parliamentary group of LDP defectors in the House of Representatives, decided to call another meeting Thursday morning.

The process needs to be completed before the group can select a replacement for Hosokawa, who said April 8 that he will resign due to the paralysis of Diet business over alleged improprieties regarding his personal finances.

The SDP, the alliance's largest group, and the coalition's core party, Shinseito, are continuing to wrangle over a

proposed hike in the consumption tax rate and Japan's response to a possible U.N. Security Council resolution to slap sanctions on North Korea.

Shinseito Secretary General Ichiro Ozawa, the coalition's top strategist, has demanded the wording indicating a plan to approve a hike in indirect taxes be inserted into the coalition's policy platform document.

SDP Secretary General Wataru Kubo, however, balked at the stand and proposed alternative wording that calls for the abolition of the current consumption tax and for making up resultant revenue shortfalls with "the introduction of a new tax."

Kubo also called for inserting a further tough condition that mandates securing "public consent" before bringing in the new tax.

Ozawa blasted the SDP assertion for carrying a hidden intention to scuttle the proposed new tax later, saying, "a Diet member acts on the basis of public mandate." If public consent is mandated, they will have to conduct opinion polls for every policy proposal, he said.

Kubo said Shinseito's counterproposal to "hike the rate of an indirect tax" would open the way for raising the rate of the consumption tax from the current 3 percent, a move which has drawn the ire of the SDP, the sources said.

Shinseito also proceed drawing tax reform to a conclusion by the end of June and legislating a tax reform bill featuring the indirect tax hike by the end of this year. The SDP did not balk at the proposed timetable, but stuck to its condition calling for public consent.

In February, Hosokawa was forced to rescind a plan to replace the consumption tax with a new 7 percent "National Welfare Tax" because of strong opposition from the SDP, which threatened to pull out of the coalition.

Hosokawa proposed the imposition of the new tax partly to offset a 6 trillion yen tax cut and to secure budgetary revenues to finance growing government welfare spending for the elderly.

The SDP also withdrew its support for the agreed-upon wording on Japan's possible response to contingencies on the Korean peninsula if the United Nations moved to penalize Pyongyang for its continued refusal of full international inspections of its nuclear facilities.

The previous wording—agreed upon Tuesday—called for authorizing Japan to join the U.N.-approved "collective security measures." The SDP, concerned that such wording might obligate Japan to join collective security measures in the event of U.N. sanctions, proposed removing the wording "collective security measures."

The SDP also urged the coalition partners to approve its proposal to insert a condition that Japan be obligated to

hold consultations not only with the United States and South Korea but with China if contingencies struck the Korean peninsula.

If the coalition representatives can forge agreement on the remaining policy gaps, their leaders will select Foreign Minister Tsutomu Hata as their candidate for an upcoming Diet election to name a successor to Hosokawa.

North Korea

Foreign Ministry Publishes Nuclear 'Memorandum'

SK2004105394 Pyongyang KCNA in English 1019 GMT 20 Apr 94

[**"Respect for DPRK's Unique Status, Key Factor of Fair Solution to Nuclear Issue; Memorandum of DPRK Foreign Ministry"**—KCNA headline]

[Text] Pyongyang, April 20 (KCNA)—The Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea today published a memorandum throwing light on the major obstacles to a solution to the nuclear issue and the truth behind them in view of the current situation.

Follows the full text of the memorandum:

Memorandum

of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea

The current international relations evolving over the nuclear issue on the Korean peninsula have assumed dimensions of serious confrontation. The situation has presented much greater complexity particularly after March 31 when the United Nations Security Council announced its "presidential statement" imposing unreasonable follow-on inspections on the Democratic People's Republic of Korea (DPRK).

The United States and its satellite forces have resorted to the one-track course of pressure by enjoining the safeguards agreement-bound fullscope inspections on the DPRK with disregard to the unique status of the DPRK which has temporarily suspended the effectuation of its declared withdrawal from the treaty on the non-proliferation of nuclear weapons (NPT/the treaty), and such action has placed grave difficulties in the way of efforts for resolving the nuclear issue.

The nuclear issue today stands at the crossroad where the issue can be resolved through dialogue and negotiations in keeping with the DPRK's unique NPT status or the issue will remain unresolved permanently because of strong-arm actions and confrontation.

In view of the current situation, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea

issues this memorandum in order to shed light on the major obstacles blocking a resolution of the nuclear issue and the truth behind them.

1. The Origination of the DPRK's Unique NPT Status and Its Essence

The key factor in resolving the nuclear issue includes acceptance of the DPRK's unique status based on its temporary suspension of the effectuation of the announced withdrawal from the NPT and adoption of a step-by-step process toward a fair solution befitting the unique status.

The DPRK finds itself in a unique status of having temporarily suspended the effectuation of its announced withdrawal from the NPT.

As is known already, the DPRK Government announced its decision on March 12, 1993 to withdraw from the NPT in order to safeguard the supreme state interests in accordance with Paragraph 1 of Article X of the treaty. The DPRK's decision to temporarily suspend the effectuation of its withdrawal from the NPT, as contained in the June 11 1993 DPRK-USA joint statement, was a provisional measure which the DPRK undertook unilaterally on the premise that the DPRK-USA negotiations for a peaceful resolution of the nuclear issue will continue on an equal and unprejudiced basis. This bespeaks that the legal parties responsible for the suspension of the effectuation of the DPRK's withdrawal from the treaty are clearly the DPRK and the United States.

As far as the safeguards agreement is concerned, the agreement was concluded pursuant to Paragraph 4 of Article III of the NPT, and therefore the legal validity of this agreement has been as good as suspended since June 12, 1993 when the DPRK's withdrawal from the treaty was to come into force because of absence of any subsequent particular agreement thereof between the DPRK and the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA/the agency). This notwithstanding, the DPRK and the IAEA have so far managed to reach bilateral agreement on the limited scope inspection activities which have been carried out accordingly. This was possible entirely thanks to the voluntary and well-intentioned steps taken by the DPRK in order to demonstrate the transparency of its nuclear activities.

The United States and the IAEA Secretariat, too, have recognized the DPRK's unique NPT status.

At the DPRK-USA working-level contact in New York on December 10 1993, U.S. Deputy Assistant Secretary of State for East Asia and Pacific Affairs Thomas Hubbard said that "the United States understands the DPRK's unique status resulting from its temporary suspension of the effectuation of the declared withdrawal from the NPT," and that "we want the DPRK to accept technical requirements for maintaining the continuity of safeguards, not the agency's legal requirements." Assistant Secretary of State for Political-military Affairs Robert L. Gallucci, head of the USA

delegation to the DPRK-USA talks, addressed a message on February 2, 1994 to his DPRK counterpart, in which he said that "We understand that inspections sought by the IAEA for the continuity of safeguards are designed to ensure non-diversion of nuclear material since the previous full inspection." This is a de facto acceptance by the United States that the inspection needed for the continuity of safeguards is not routine or ad hoc inspection under the safeguards agreement, but an inspection limited only to the purpose of verifying that there has been no diversion of nuclear material in the DPRK since February 1993 when the inspections required by the safeguards agreement were suspended. At the same time, this also serves as a clear evidence that the United States has accepted and respects the DPRK's current unique NPT status.

The IAEA, too, has recognized the DPRK's unique status in the practice of its inspection activities. In his March 24 1994 report to the United Nations Security Council on the results of the agency's March inspection activities in the DPRK, the IAEA Director-General Hans Blix said that the DPRK says it needs only to ensure the continuity of safeguards because of its unique status, and in this sense the DPRK accepted the agency's inspections in May and August 1993 for the servicing and reloading of the surveillance equipment. This is none other than an acceptance by the IAEA itself of the DPRK's unique status. Had the IAEA Secretariat had any competent reasons or grounds to urge the DPRK to fulfill its obligations under the safeguards agreement, it would never have agreed to such an extremely limited inspection aimed only at servicing and reloading the surveillance equipment as the agency's director-general referred to.

The same is the case with the March 1994 inspection of which the agency has made an "issue." In his above-mentioned report, the agency's director-general said that in reaching the DPRK-IAEA agreement on 15 February 1994, which became the basis for the latest inspection, "We discussed only the contents of the inspection needed, at the present juncture, for maintaining the continuity of safeguards, not the legal grounds for the inspection." In the final analysis, the IAEA Secretariat has proved by itself that it could not deny the DPRK's unique status in relations to the safeguards agreement but accepted and tolerated its unique status and, on this basis, has performed its inspection activities.

Despite these facts, the United States and the agency Secretariat are still talking about the "non-compliance with the safeguards agreement" and "full inspection," stressing that the DPRK should yet fully live up to its obligations under the safeguards agreement. Such action clearly shows that they are using the safeguards agreement as a leverage for attaining their dishonest political objectives of strangling the DPRK's political system.

Masterminded by the United States, the IAEA Secretariat convened the meeting of the agency's Board of Governors on March 21, 1994 to deal with the DPRK's

so-called "nuclear issue" and engineered the adoption by the board of a "resolution," which says that the DPRK "is in further non-compliance with its safeguards agreement by not allowing IAEA inspectors to conduct indispensable inspection activities to verify that there has been no diversion of nuclear material."

In its "Presidential Statement" dated March 31, 1994, the United Nations Security Council "calls upon the Democratic People's Republic of Korea to allow the IAEA inspectors to complete the inspection activities as a step in fulfilling its obligations under the safeguards agreement and in honouring non-proliferation obligations of the treaty." This is also clearly nothing but simply a demand that the DPRK agree to full implementation of the safeguards agreement.

The persistency with which the United States and the IAEA have called for the DPRK's full implementation of the safeguards agreement is based on their intention to categorically negate the legality of the DPRK's current unique status and to justify their machinations of strangling the DPRK.

Even in the light of the premise on which the safeguards agreement was approved, the legal effect of the agreement is, in fact, as good as suspended. On April 9, 1992, the third session of the Ninth Supreme People's Assembly of the DPRK deliberated on the safeguards agreement to be concluded between the DPRK and the IAEA and adopted and announced its resolution on "approving this agreement on the premise that none of the depositaries of the treaty on the non-proliferation of nuclear weapons will either deploy nuclear weapons on the Korean peninsula or resort to nuclear threat against us."

But, the elimination of the nuclear threat by a depositary of the treaty against the DPRK—which is included in the above-stated premise—remains yet to be achieved, and the United States, one of the depositaries, is on the contrary further increasing its nuclear threat against the DPRK particularly by openly disclosing its intention to resume the "Team Spirit '94" joint military exercises, a nuclear test war targeting the DPRK, and massing its Armed Forces on and around the Korean peninsula. Such actions on the part of the United States destroy the legal basis of the DPRK's approval of the safeguards agreement and create circumstances that prevent the DPRK from implementing the safeguards agreement.

The IAEA Secretariat is a party to the safeguards agreement, but the partiality and injustice in its actions give the DPRK unambiguous grounds to withhold full implementation of the safeguards agreement. The "Vienna Convention on the Law of Treaties" provides in Paragraph 1 of Article 60 that "a material breach of a bilateral treaty by one of the parties entitles the other to invoke the breach as a ground for terminating the treaty or suspending its operation in whole or in part."

The IAEA Secretariat has fundamentally breached the safeguards agreement when it artificially fabricated the

so-called "inconsistencies" and, on the basis of the intelligence information forged by the United States, triggered an agency "resolution" calling for "special inspection" aimed at opening up the "two military sites" of the DPRK, another party to the safeguards agreement. Therefore, it follows, as a matter of course, that the DPRK, as another party to the agreement, is entitled to the legitimate rights to suspend the effect of this agreement in whole or in part.

II. The Consistent Efforts by the DPRK Government for the Continuity of Safeguards

Despite the extraordinary situation characterized by its unilateral decision to suspend temporarily the effectuation of the announced withdrawal from the NPT, the DPRK Government has provided its sincere cooperation in the IAEA inspection activities needed for the continuity of safeguards at its nuclear facilities, as an expression of its good will to demonstrate the transparency of the DPRK's peaceful nuclear activities.

In keeping with its promise to the United States, the DPRK Government has placed the nuclear activities within the DPRK's territory strictly under the IAEA's surveillance.

At present, the IAEA-installed containment devices at the DPRK's five-megawatt experimental atomic power plant and the radiochemical laboratory alone include over 40 metal seals and more than 10 paper seals, gamma mappings at 20 points, over 50 sheets of status change identification photographs and the spike liquid for freezing processes at five vessels, and the agency's surveillance devices installed at these facilities are six surveillance cameras, one spent fuel rod counter and three thermal luminescence detectors. This is an unquestionable evidence that the DPRK's nuclear facilities remain under the double and triple system of the IAEA's strict containment and surveillance.

In early December 1993, an IAEA spokesman admitted that the continuity of safeguards is maintained at the DPRK's nuclear facilities, saying that "the surveillance system is in operation with double and triple backup system of complementary facility containment and surveillance devices, and its unique character is that any malfunction of certain device falls short of determining the interruption of the continuity. Therefore, absence of inspection cannot lead to a total impossibility of safeguards surveillance." Even at present, the surveillance cameras and containment devices installed by the IAEA still remain in place at the DPRK's nuclear facilities.

Whenever the IAEA Secretariat proposed to send inspection teams for the purpose of maintaining the continuity of safeguards, the DPRK agreed to receive the inspection teams and allowed them to replace the tapes and accessories of the surveillance equipment, to identify the seals and to conduct the physical inventory verification activities required for the continuity of safeguards surveillance. Such sincere efforts by the DPRK resulted in successful inspections by the agency for the continuity of

safeguards in May and August of 1993 when the agency inspectors serviced and reloaded containment and surveillance equipment at the five-megawatt experimental atomic power plant and the radiochemical laboratory, the two facilities to which the IAEA attach importance.

In view of the size and present conditions of the DPRK's nuclear facilities, the containment and surveillance devices installed at these major facilities alone are enough to fully verify non-diversion of nuclear material to other purposes in the DPRK.

In his telex dated September 14, 1993 to the director of the General Department of Atomic Energy of the DPRK, the IAEA director-general pointed out that the inspection activities in May and August of 1993 helped to maintain the continuity of safeguards knowledge.

Even in the extraordinary circumstances following its temporary suspension of the effectuation of the withdrawal from the NPT, the DPRK Government took goodwill steps of accepting the IAEA inspections necessary for the continuity of safeguards of its nuclear facilities.

Motivated by its desire to fulfil in good faith both the DPRK-USA agreed conclusions and the DPRK-IAEA agreement, the DPRK received the agency inspection team on schedule in March of 1994 and allowed the inspection team to perform its inspection activities sufficient for maintaining the continuity of safeguards at the declared seven facilities. These activities include the servicing and reloading of the containment and surveillance devices as well as the "verification of physical inventory" of nuclear material. Such inspection activities have helped to fully verify non-diversion of nuclear material from the DPRK's nuclear facilities and to provide firm assurances of the continuity of safeguards.

The Russian newspaper "PRAVDA," dated March 29, 1994, said that the "IAEA has no evidence that North Korea has breached the international rules in the field of nuclear technology" and commented that "the inspectors did not find out anything to prove their blame for an alleged military orientation of the research work there."

South Korea's "Radio No. 1" quoted on March 16, 1994 the IAEA inspection team as reporting that during the just concluded inspection in North Korea... They carried out inspection activities including the reloading of the surveillance equipment on a more progressive scale than the previous inspections.

On February 28, 1994, a U.S. Government official told a press interview that "the infrared photographs from the American reconnaissance satellite have revealed mostly that North Korea did not extract plutonium over the past one year."

Leonard Specter, senior researcher at the U.S. "Carnegie Endowment for International Peace," said that "as for my understanding, there has been no problem at the reactor. After the inspection was complete, there has

been no indication that the fuel was removed," and added that "they would not have this plant opened up for the world to see, if they wanted first and foremost to try to build up their nuclear weapons program."

U.S. Assistant Secretary of State for East Asia and Pacific Affairs Winston Lord and other American officials concerned also said that "Through the agency's inspection, it is almost certain that North Korea has not engaged in any further reprocessing activities since it announced its decision to pull out of the treaty."

The restriction of the inspection of the DPRK's nuclear facilities to a limited inspection only for the continuity of safeguards is an inevitable case befitting the DPRK's unique status.

During the March 1-15, 1994 period when the inspection activities took place, the DPRK did not allow smear-taking in the glove-box area and gamma mapping for the filtering device at the radiochemical laboratory requested by the inspection team because it was an inordinate demand going beyond the scope of maintaining the continuity of safeguards.

If, at this point of time, the DPRK allowed the requested samplings and measurements unrelated to the continuity of safeguards, then the IAEA Secretariat would play on it to frame up "inconsistencies" again, as it did previously, and would complicate the matter by talking about "special inspections" and so forth. In reality, the IAEA Secretariat is now raising a hue and cry, as if the DPRK's alleged restriction of the scope of the recent inspection activities were responsible for a so-called non-implementation of the February 15, 1994 DPRK-IAEA agreement. This shows that the agency Secretariat continues seeking its dishonest political purposes by distorting the truth in an attempt to impute all the responsibilities to the DPRK.

The agency Secretariat's unwarranted demand for samplings and measurements at the radiochemical laboratory during the recent inspection constitutes a clear violation of the February 15, 1994 agreement designed exclusively for maintaining the continuity of safeguards. And, as for the disputed smear-taking in the glove-box area of the radiochemical laboratory, for which the agency Secretariat insists on the "completion of inspection," the smear-taking has no relevance at all to the continuity of safeguards but falls into the category of the verification of correctness and completeness of the initial report on nuclear material. The smear-taking in this area is directly related with the so-called "inconsistencies" which still stand unresolved between the two sides, and this is what the agency already knows well. However, the DPRK side showed highly cooperative spirit by recommending a sample-taking of the spike liquid for the inspectors to conduct an effective verification in the glove-box area and assisting them in sampling the spike liquid. Analysis of this sampled liquid alone is more than enough to determine non-diversion of nuclear material.

Despite these facts, the agency Secretariat made an unjust and unilateral conclusion that it "remains unable to verify that there has been no reprocessing activities at the radiochemical laboratory" and referred the DPRK's "nuclear issue" to the United Nations Security Council, an action which cannot be viewed otherwise but clearly as a calculated anti-DPRK stratagem. Any inspections under the safeguards agreement will never be allowed, as long as the current situation continues with the DPRK's unique status based on its temporary suspension of the effectuation of the declared withdrawal from the NPT.

The inspection activities that befit the DPRK's current unique status are only the inspection activities necessary for maintaining the continuity of safeguards. The case is the same with an inspection of the DPRK's normal peaceful nuclear activities.

How long the DPRK's unique status will last depends entirely on when the United States renounces its nuclear threat against the DPRK and its policy of antagonizing and strangling the DPRK and, at the same time, when the agency redresses its partiality and injustice to the DPRK. The DPRK's unique status would naturally terminate if further round of DPRK-USA talks take place and the simultaneous action steps are carried into practice with a view to resolving the nuclear issue once and for all on the principle of the proposed package solution.

III. The Injustice of Applying the Double Standards to the DPRK's "Nuclear Issue"

At present, the IAEA Secretariat and the United Nations Security Council, both in support of the U.S. policy of antagonizing and strangling the DPRK, are openly applying their extremely discriminatory and prejudiced double standards to the DPRK's "nuclear issue."

Under the U.S. manipulation, some officials of the IAEA Secretariat manoeuvred the adoption of the unjust anti-DPRK "resolutions" one after another charging the DPRK with the so-called "non-compliance with the safeguards agreement" and systematically tried to bring the DPRK's "nuclear issue" to the United Nations.

The United Nations Security Council, also under the U.S. behind-the-scenes manipulation, is used as forum for an unwarranted discussion of the DPRK's "nuclear issue" against the purposes and principles of its charter.

International law must be applied without any prejudice to all the states, irrespective of the size of their territories or the number of their population. The international organization connives at the United States posing nuclear threat against the DPRK and instead brings unilateral pressure to bear upon the victimized DPRK. This is a clear example of application of the double standards.

Some officials of the IAEA Secretariat are unreasonably provoking the DPRK over its peaceful nuclear activities, while conniving at the U.S.-patronized countries developing nuclear weapons.

In the practice of its inspection activities, the IAEA defends some countries using their nuclear facilities for the military purposes, saying "those are undeclared facilities," or "they are the buildings about which there is no other available information related to the existence of nuclear materials." Some officials of the IAEA Secretariat have conducted more than 100 rounds of inspections in other countries but never made an issue of the telltale nuclear weapons development programme in some of these countries. But, after six rounds of inspections only in the DPRK, they fomented suspicions about alleged "nuclear weapons development" in the DPRK and pushed through a Board of Governors' resolution calling for "special inspection." This is a graphic illustration of how far their double standards policy has gone against the DPRK.

On April 1, 1993 the editor of the Tanzanian newspaper "MOTOMOTO" said that the United States feigns ignorance of the nuclear development programme in some countries, but on the other hand it "persists in its efforts to fault North Korea's alleged 'nuclear development' and its declared intention to withdraw from the NPT despite its faithful implementation of the NPT obligations because, in a nutshell, that nation is regarded as a cancerous entity hampering the U.S. attempts to establish a new global order."

The Thai newspaper "BANGKOK POST," dated April 15, 1993 carried an article entitled "Why Nuclear Arms Race Is Based on Racial Discrimination?" which says the double standards are now applied clearly toward the attitude of North Korea that has expressed its displeasure over the NPT's discriminatory nature and announced its intention to withdraw from the treaty on the one hand and toward the attitude of certain countries that have acknowledged having produced nuclear bombs with equivalent fire power to that of the bomb dropped on Hiroshima of Japan during World War II on the other.

The Russian newspaper "PRAVDA" dated March 30, 1993 also reported that "many observers are highly suspicious of the nuclear programmes of a number of countries, which remain out of sight of the United States and the IAEA," and deplored "the U.S. demand for North Korea to accept inspections of its military sites to be astonishing."

The abnormal situation is such that the nations on which sanctions should be imposed go unchallenged while pressure is imposed on an innocent nation.

Some officials of the IAEA Secretariat connived at the nuclear weapons development programme by the U.S.-patronized countries, but in case of the DPRK, they did not hesitate to use openly the forged intelligence information and satellite photographs from a third country

which are forbidden to be used for inspection activities, in a desperate attempt to create a "suspicion about the nuclear development" in the DPRK.

None of provisions in the IAEA statute and the safeguards agreement stipulate usability of a third country's intelligence information to the agency's inspection activities. However, some officials of the IAEA Secretariat have breached the IAEA statute and the safeguards agreement by systematically using the falsified intelligence information from a third country for their inspections at the DPRK's nuclear facilities. On November 16, 1990, the Japanese "JIJI" news service disclosed that, in a bid to arouse suspicion about the DPRK's nuclear activities, the United States "adventurously faked up reconnaissance satellite photographs and circulated them among the IAEA Secretariat and the Western countries" to peddle around the "suspected nuclear arms development programme" in the DPRK.

The American newspaper "WASHINGTON POST," dated April 27, 1993 acknowledged that "the Clinton administration provided the IAEA with photographs from the U.S. reconnaissance satellite as evidence of 'North Korea's nuclear weapons development programme.'"

A British newspaper "DAILY AFFAIRS INTERNATIONAL," dated April 4, 1994, carried an article by its Deputy Editor Keith Bennett, entitled "Why Should the Third World Nations Defend North Korea?" which says "The International Atomic Energy Agency has conducted inspections in this country and given it a 'clean bill of health' that the nuclear facilities in the country are used only for peaceful purposes. But, when the U.S. Central Intelligence Agency presented photographs from its eye-in-the-sky satellites, the IAEA made a surprise move by pressing North Korea to accept 'special inspection,' in wanton violation of the IAEA statute providing against the use of information from extraneous sources to the purpose of its inspection activities. This is an example of the double standards applied by the IAEA."

In reality, during the February 1993 meeting of the agency's Board of Governors, the IAEA director-general screened the slide films of the forged satellite picture provided by the United States in an attempt to create a suspicion that certain military site in the DPRK is a "nuclear waste storage". In his address on April 14, 1993 to a conference on atomic industry in Yokohama of Japan, the IAEA director-general even stated openly that he would "continue using the U.S. intelligence information about the two locations around Yongbyon for the agency's inspections and go on obtaining North Korea's nuclear-related information from third countries even if North Korea may protest."

As seen in the above, the previous routine and ad hoc inspections conducted by the IAEA were not inspections aimed at verifying the correctness and completeness of the DPRK's initial report on nuclear material but they were, from the outset, the IAEA-coated U.S. inspections

to fabricate pretence for strangling the DPRK on the basis of the intelligence information forged by the United States.

Moreover, some officials in the IAEA Secretariat have systematically dished out to the United States and other hostile forces the confidential information to which they had obtained access in the course of the inspections at the DPRK's nuclear facilities. These actions constitute a gross violation of the provision of the safeguards agreement on protecting secrets and other confidential information coming to their knowledge during inspections. After all, the inspections at the DPRK's nuclear facilities were, in the true sense of the word, "no-secret inspections" and "open inspections," and they were "joint inspections" and "cooperative inspections" under the "quadripartite system of coordination" of the United States, Japan, South Korea and the IAEA.

All the above-cited facts show that the double standards policy pursued by the United States and the IAEA with respect to the DPRK's nuclear issue has reached its culmination and such policy has topped the height of injustice.

As can be seen in the above, the attempts to force the DPRK to fully implement the safeguards agreement-bound obligations at the present stage are motivated by the malevolent purposes to destroy the basis of the DPRK's declaration of its decision to withdraw from the treaty in the long run, by stretching the truth to make an impression that the DPRK still remains a full state party of the NPT.

As the DPRK has stated in no uncertain terms the reasons for declaring its decision to withdraw from the NPT, unless the United States renounces its policy of hostility and nuclear threat campaign against the DPRK and unless the IAEA Secretariat redresses its partiality and injustice to the DPRK, the DPRK's reinstatement in the treaty will remain absolutely inconceivable and, therefore, full implementation of the safeguards agreement will have no sense of word at the present stage.

Inspection limited strictly to maintaining the continuity of safeguards alone is what the DPRK can accept in keeping with its unique status based on the temporary suspension of the effectuation of its announced withdrawal from the NPT and contingent on the progress of the DPRK-USA talks.

The DPRK's unique status was not of its own making intended for its selfish purposes, but it was imposed on the DPRK, against its will, by the United States and the IAEA Secretariat due to the abnormal situation resulting from their unjust actions. The DPRK sincerely wants such an extraordinary situation to be straightened out as soon as possible and the nuclear issue to be resolved impartially. To this end, the United States and the IAEA Secretariat must clearly realize their responsibility for the origination of the nuclear issue and for its current complexity, stop resorting to the unreasonable and contradictory method of the double standards and pressure,

and must seek unprejudiced and substantial ways to resolve the nuclear issue once and for all.

The current developments give serious lessons that dialogue and negotiations are the only way to attain an early resolution of the nuclear issue and to achieve detente and peace and that pressure and "sanctions" are the path of unpardonable notorious crimes of whipping up conflict and confrontation and thus blocking permanently the possibility of resolving the nuclear issue.

If the United States and the IAEA Secretariat continue to resort to unreasonable pressure campaign ignoring such lessons of history, the nuclear issue will remain unresolved indefinitely and it will only entail irretrievable consequences jeopardizing peace and security in Asia and the rest of the world.

All the facts show that if they try at the present stage to restore confidence on a step-by-step basis through inspection designed for the continuity of safeguards in line with the DPRK's current unique status and at the same time take a serious approach to the DPRK-USA talks, the matters related to the implementation of the safeguards agreement will be sorted out in due course, and eventually the nuclear issue will be resolved once and for all.

[Dated] April 20, 1994 Pyongyang

'Conditions' for Resuming Inspections Reported

OW2004104594 Tokyo KYODO in English 1024 GMT
20 Apr 94

[Text] New York, April 20 KYODO—North Korea has indicated it is willing to permit further inspections of its nuclear facilities if the United States simultaneously announces the postponement of joint military exercises with South Korea and reopens a third round of high-level talks with Pyongyang.

A special envoy of North Korean President Kim Il-sung earlier this month also reportedly told Indonesian President Suharto that North Korea also wants a postponement to the deployment of U.S. patriot antimissile batteries in South Korea.

Pyongyang's conditions for resuming inspections of its nuclear facilities were revealed in a copy of an April 7 letter from Suharto, head of the Non-Aligned Movement (NAM), to U.N. Secretary General Butrus Butrus-Ghali made public Wednesday.

In the letter, Suharto said North Korean Vice Foreign Minister Kim Chang-kyu told him Pyongyang is willing to permit International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) inspections but emphasized the conditions that should be applied simultaneously.

Suharto said the envoy mentioned the "postponement" of the Team Spirit military exercises and the deployment of the Patriot missiles, but dispatches from Pyongyang in

the past have firmly demanded the suspension of the exercises and a halt to the missile deployment.

Suharto suggested to Butrus-Ghali that North Korea is seeking the simultaneous commencement of all the steps to avoid any impression that it has capitulated to the demands of the IAEA, the U.S. and others.

Suharto also told North Korea that only way to resolve the nuclear issue peacefully would appear to be through "a comprehensive and thorough implementation of inspections by the IAEA."

Suharto said, "We conveyed to (North Korea) our considered view that it was crucial for the cause of peace in the region that it resolve the issue of nuclear inspection with the IAEA and that (North Korea's) withdrawal from the (Nuclear) Nonproliferation Treaty would only intensify suspicion of its nuclear intentions."

Reaction to Deployment of Missiles in ROK

Committee Denounces Measure

SK2004020094 Pyongyang Korean Central Broadcasting Network in Korean 2200 GMT 19 Apr 94

[Text] The Korea Antinuclear Peace Committee issued a statement denouncing the U.S. imperialists and South Korean puppets for leading the situation on the Korean peninsula to the brink of war by deploying Patriot missiles. The statement reads:

Statement by the Korea Antinuclear Peace Committee.

The entire nation and the world's peace-loving people are strongly protesting and denouncing the maneuvers of the rulers of the U.S. imperialist and South Korea to introduce Patriot missiles.

In particular, South Korean students and youths, and people from all walks of life are courageously waging anti-America, antiwar, and antinuclear struggles day after day shouting the slogans "We protest with our lives the deployment of Patriot missiles which intensifies tension on the Korean peninsula" and "Yankee go home."

This shows South Korean people's firm will that they would never tolerate the maneuver to introduce Patriot missiles. This is also a genuine, just, patriotic struggle to prevent the risk of the approaching reality of a nuclear war, and defend the country's peace and safety.

As has been exposed, the introduction of new missiles in South Korea is one of the premeditated aggressive arms build-up maneuvers of the U.S. imperialists and South Korean war maniac elements to make a preemptive attack on our Republic. The Patriots missiles being deployed to South Korea are the most advanced, highly dangerous, war devices [chonjaeng sudan] which can strike any place and object depending on the type of warheads installed.

Branding the Patriot missile deployment maneuver of the U.S. imperialists and the South Korean puppets as a total breach of the DPRK-U.S. joint statement and the North-South joint declaration on denuclearization, which were intended to peacefully resolve the nuclear issue of the Korean peninsula, the Korea Antinuclear Peace Committee resolutely denounces the undisguised military provocation aimed at unleashing at any cost, another war—a thermonuclear war in Korea.

The introduction of Patriot missiles that were constantly rejected in many regions of the world is an inevitable product of the despicable flunkyist and treacherous policy pursued by the Kim Yong-sam group, which has turned South Korea into an exhibition ground for new and old U.S. weapons and into an arms market.

Following the collapse of the Cold-War system and the break in the balance of power in the international arena, the monopoly companies of the U.S. defense industry have faced difficulties in selling weapons. Representing the interests of monopolies, the Pentagon and the U.S. Administration are trying every means to develop markets that stockpile various war equipment, including already-produced mass destructive weapons by putting pressure on the so-called allies and puppets under their subjugation.

Kim Yong-sam the treacherous traitor, who has emerged as a vanguard in carrying out the U.S. aggressive policy, already vowed loyalty to his master during his U.S. junket at the end of last year and promised to fill the stomachs of U.S. agricultural capitalists and defense companies by opening the weapons market along with the rice market.

The Kim Yong-sam group unilaterally broke up the working contact for the exchange of special envoys between the North and the South which had been arranged with so much effort and, later, openly incited a war fever, spreading a rumor about someone's scheme to provoke a war against the South, and made public even an aggressive war plan dubbed "new operation plan No. 5027" against the North which had been secret. All this was motivated by its despicable purpose of finding a legal pretext for the massive shipment of U.S.-made destructive weapons to South Korea, thus furthering the interests of the United States, its master.

Not satisfied with selling out the rice market on which the lives of South Korean farmers depend, the traitor Kim Yong-sam gave out South Korea as a market for U.S.-made weapons, thus showing that the rascals are treacherous traitors worse than the five traitors of Ulaa.

It has become clear to everybody that as long as treachery exists with the traitor Kim Yong-sam in power in South Korea, the nation's interests cannot be defended and our nation cannot avoid a nuclear war calamity. South Korean youths, students, and people must invigorate the anti-America, antiwar, antinuclear and antigovernment struggle to oust the Kim Yong-sam group from power and establish an independent and

democratic government to block and thwart the introduction of the Patriot missile by the U.S. imperialists and the puppet clique.

History shows how tragic the end is for traitors who run counter to the general trend. If the United States and the South Korean puppets ignore the aspiration of the times and the demand of the nation and steadily reinforce the aggression forces to finally start the fire of a nuclear war on the Korean peninsula, the provokers will never get off safe.

The U.S. and South Korean rulers must clearly see the strong spirit and iron will of the our people, who never pardon those who infringe upon the dignity of the nation and the sovereignty of the country, promptly stop the aggressive arms buildup including the deployment of Patriot missiles and discontinue the reckless war provocation moves at once.

[Dated] 19 April, 1994, Pyongyang.

Papers Comment on Development

SK2004065294 *Pyongyang KCNA in English* 0523
GMT 20 Apr 94

["Arms Buildup Designed To Provoke War"—KCNA headline]

[Text] Pyongyang, April 20 (KCNA)—We will neither be frightened by the resumption of the "Team Spirit" war gamble by the warmaniacs nor be afraid of any threat posed by them with something bigger than Patriot missiles, says NODONG SINMUN in a commentary hitting out at the shipment of the Patriot missiles in South Korea by the United States and the South Korean authorities on April 18.

The U.S. introduction of a new missile unit into South Korea means an escalation of its belligerent moves to provoke a nuclear war against the DPRK on the Korean peninsula, the news analyst says, and goes on:

The United States and the South Korean warlikeners ridiculously say the deployment of Patriot missiles is intended to "supplement the anti-aircraft defence capabilities" and it is an "effective means of defence" to counter someone's "surprise attack". This is a clumsy excuse for covering up their aggressive design.

The argument of the U.S. imperialists and the South Korean warmaniacs that Patriot missiles entail no danger because they are for "defence" only revealed once again their shameless nature as cunning and wicked aggressor and provoker.

It is a daydream if they think they can threaten us and bring us to our knees with the introduction of sophisticated weapons of mass destruction and nuclear war gambles.

We love peace. But we are fully prepared to mete out a thousand-fold retaliatory punishment to the enemies if they dare provoke us.

MINJU CHOSON in its commentary says "we have the singlehearted unity of the whole party, entire people and whole Army several hundred times stronger than the A-bombs and H-bombs of the United States and invincible self-reliant defence forces." If the enemies dare provoke us, we will deal a decisive counter-blow at them, it warns.

Arrival of Missiles Detailed

SK2004035094 *Pyongyang Korean Central Broadcasting Network in Korean* 0318 GMT 20 Apr 94

[Text] According to reports from Seoul, two U.S. Navy transport ships loaded with U.S. Patriot missiles to be deployed to South Korea arrived in Pusan port on 18 April.

Forty-eight launchers, 192 Patriot missiles, and 84 Stinger missiles on the two ships are being unloaded. They will be put in actual deployment by 29 April.

Following the first shipment of Patriot missiles which arrived on 18 April, the second shipment is expected to arrive soon and to be ready for deployment by 29 April.

The introduction of Patriot missiles to South Korea by the United States and the South Korean puppet clique is a very dangerous development of the situation which drives the military situation on the Korean peninsula to the brink of war. This shows that the reckless attempt of the United States and the Kim Yong-sam traitor clique to militarily win supremacy over [kunsajoguro cheap] our Republic has already been put into practice.

'Analyst': U.S. Aggravating Situation in Korea

SK2004161994 *Pyongyang KCNA in English* 1556
GMT 20 Apr 94

["Intentional Move of Warlikeners"—KCNA headline]

[Text] Pyongyang, April 20 (KCNA)—The United States is these days aggravating the situation in Korea by spreading the fiction of "nuclear threat" from North Korea, making quite a noise as if a war were impending. Lurking behind this is a sinister intention of the United States, says a MINJU CHOSON analyst today.

The news analyst goes on:

The mounting tension on the Korean peninsula is attributable to the United States' policy hostile to the DPRK, not to the latter's "nuclear threat".

The U.S. authorities, particularly the military quarters closely connected with warmongers, are seeking to intentionally aggravate the situation on the Korean peninsula and make money through arms sales by taking advantage of it.

This is borne out by the fact that in November last year when Kim Yong-sam, a puppet, went to the United States, the U.S. authorities vociferated about "North's nuclear threat" and forced him to open the South Korean rice market, any more for the maintenance of the U.S. occupation forces in South Korea and buy more weapons including Patriot missiles in return for their "commitment" to the "security" of South Korea.

In aggravating the situation on the Korean peninsula they also seek to find a way out of the crisis at home. The U.S. Administration is now floundering under great condemnations and criticisms from the American people for its anti-popular policies and snowballing trade deficits. The recent "White Water" scandal has made its position all the more difficult, and the U.S. political crisis is worsening daily.

Hence, the U.S. authorities are aggravating the situation on the Korean peninsula, crying themselves hoarse over the "North's nuclear threat" to divert public attention elsewhere with the aim of defusing the domestic crisis.

Whatever petty tricks they may play, they cannot conceal the stark fact.

They must refrain from such despicable, anachronistic acts as selling off lethal weapons by spreading a lie and aggravating the situation and withdraw all their destructive weapons and troops from South Korea. That will do them good.

Political Parties Abroad Denounce U.S. Moves

SK2004152394 *Pyongyang KCNA in English* 1509
GMT 20 Apr 94

["UN Security Council Must Retract 'Presidential Statement' at Once" —KCNA headline]

[Text] Pyongyang, April 20 (KCNA)—The anti-DPRK moves of the United States has been denounced by political parties and organisations of different countries.

The Communist Party of Bangladesh (Marxist-Leninist) in a statement April 3 said that the United States is egging the International Atomic Energy Agency on to demand an unwarrantable "inspection" of the nuclear sites of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea. "This is contradictory to the agreed conclusions reached at the DPRK-USA contact in New York for a package solution to the nuclear issue and is a crafty artifice to deploy its 'Patriot' missiles in South Korea," it noted.

It said current developments showed that the United States does not have the slightest intention to solve the nuclear issue on the Korean peninsula in a peaceful way but still schemes to stifle the DPRK by the policy of strength.

The Arab Progressive Baath Party in a statement on April 5 denounced the anti-DPRK moves of the United States in creating a grave crisis on the Korean peninsula

and urged the United States and South Korea to stop the "Team Spirit" joint military exercises for good and all.

The Luxemburg Committee for Support to Korea's reunification in a communique pointed out that the so-called "nuclear issue" of North Korea must be solved through dialogue and negotiation between the parties concerned. The Burundi-Korea Friendship Association and the Burundi Group for the Study of the Chuche Idea in a joint message of protest said that the United States and its followers were motivated by an intention to stifle the DPRK in bringing the "nuclear issue" of the Korean peninsula to the international rostrum and demanded that the UN Security Council retract the "presidential statement" at once.

A statement of the all-India trade union congress warned that the United States must bear full responsibility for the consequences of its acts of threat to the peace and security of the Korean peninsula.

ROK Students Protest Patriots, Perry's Visit

SK2004154794 *Pyongyang KCNA in English* 1527
GMT 20 Apr 94

["Anti-U.S. Demonstrations of S. Korean Students"—KCNA headline]

[Text] Pyongyang, April 20 (KCNA)—Students in Seoul and Kwangju, South Korea, staged fierce demonstrations Tuesday in protest against the arrival of Patriot missiles at Pusan port and U.S. Defence Secretary William Perry's Seoul trip.

The demonstrators in Seoul marched to the U.S. Embassy, breaking through the close encirclement of the police, and shouted anti-American slogans with a placard reading "We Hate The Patriot. We Hate Perry."

Some 500 students affiliated with the Kwangju-South Cholla Province Federation of General Student Councils demonstrated in front of "the American Cultural Centre" in Kwangju. They threw more than 200 paint bottles at the building, branding Perry's Seoul trip and the deployment of Patriot missiles in South Korea as criminal acts increasing the danger of war.

The puppet clique mobilized a large force of riot police to harshly suppress the protesters. The students, however, continued the demonstration, chanting slogans urging the withdrawal of the U.S. imperialist aggression troops from South Korea.

'300 Armed Policemen' Respond

SK2004101794 *Pyongyang Korean Central Broadcasting Network in Korean* 0929 GMT 20 April 94

[Text] This is a just-in news. According to Seoul radio reports, today, approximately 150 members of the National Federation of General Student Councils broke into the building of the puppet Defense Ministry where

the U.S. defense secretary and the puppet defense minister were hatching a war plot. Following this, the students waged a protest demonstration, chanting slogans opposing Defense Secretary Perry's visit.

In groups, the students demonstrators broke through a guard post at the front gate of the building around 11:30 AM and stormed into it. The students staged a demonstration, lying on the ground with placards reading "We oppose the United States and Perry's visit!" "We do not want a war!" and "Yankee, Go Home!" The students lifted up the placards protesting the U.S. demand on the opening of South Korea's rice market and the purchase of U.S. weapons.

The puppet clique, dismayed by the students' breaking into the Defense Ministry building, mobilized some 300 armed policemen into the spot and committed fascist suppression by taking all the student protesters to the police station.

Hanninjon Urges Greenpeace: Probe ROK Dumping

SK2004082894 Pyongyang KCNA in English 0443 GMT 20 Apr 94

["Greenpeace Called Upon To Bring Action Against Nuclear Waste Dumping by South Korean Authorities"—KCNA headline]

[Text] Pyongyang, April 20 (KCNA)—The Central Committee of the South Korean National Democratic Front (Hanninjon) in a letter to the headquarters of the Greenpeace, an international environmental movement organisation, on April 13 said the South Korean people who are exposed to radioactive substances from atomic reactors used for development of nuclear weapons and exposed to constant nuclear threats by a nuclear powder magazine of the United States, hope that the Greenpeace will make a thorough probe into the nuclear waste dumping by the South Korean authorities and their nuclear arms development and bring an action against them before the world, the Seoul-based Radio Voice of National Salvation reported.

Recalling that the South Korean authorities dumped into the East Sea of Korea nuclear wastes amounting to 11,000 trillion becquerels in the period from 1986 to 1992, the letter says:

"When their such criminal dumping began to be called in question, arousing world public opinion, the South Korean authorities started a so-called 'joint survey' in the East Sea of Korea with Russia and Japan, accomplices in nuclear waste dumping, and will reportedly notify the International Atomic Energy Agency of its results.

"This cannot be construed otherwise than an attempt to conceal their nuclear waste dumping with the backing of some biased officials of the International Atomic Energy

Agency who have already conspired with them in their nuclear racket against the North, shunning the observation of the Greenpeace.

"The board of governors of the IAEA, while taking issue with the North over its pilot reactor, branding it as one intended for the development of nuclear weapons, is overlooking heavy water reactors and multi-purpose research reactors for military purposes of the South, and has never published even any results of its inspection to speak of.

"Amidst of such biased clamor for nuclear inspection by the IAEA board of governors, the South Korean authorities have accelerated nuclear arms development and are now openly claiming 'nuclear sovereignty' to justify their nuclear armament.

"If such nuclear development is overlooked, it will not only destroy the natural ecology but may inflict a grave nuclear calamity upon our people and nation.

"Our Hanninjon will in the future, too, notify the Greenpeace about data on the criminal nuclear waste dumping and nuclear arms development by the South Korean authorities."

Pomminyon Proposes North-South Working Contact

SK2004161594 Pyongyang KCNA in English 1601 GMT 20 Apr 94

[Text] Pyongyang, April 20 (KCNA)—Paek In-chun, chairman of the North side headquarters of the National Alliance for the Country's Reunification [Pomminyon], sent a telephone message today to Yi Yong-tok, "unification minister" of South Korea, proposing to the South side a working-level contact between the North and South at Panmunjom on April 22 to discuss technical matters for a Seoul trip of the North side's delegation which has been invited to a memorial service on the hundredth day after the death of Rev. Mun Ik-hwan.

The telephone message said:

The pan-national funeral committee for Rev. Mun Ik-hwan invited the North side's delegation after proposing to hold the memorial service on the hundredth day after the death of Rev. Mun slated for April 27 with the participation of people in the North, South and overseas. This is good for the great unity of the nation. In response to this invitation, we have decided to send a four-member delegation of the North side including me, accompanied by some support personnel and journalists, to Seoul.

Recalling that when Rev. Mun died in January, the South side blocked a mourners' group of the North side from visiting Seoul, the message said: I hope no such unsavory thing would happen again. I ask your side to

guarantee personal safety and convenience to our delegation on its Seoul trip. We will send two liaison delegates of the North side of the North-South liaison office to the contact and I wish you to take an appropriate measure.

In a telephone message today to the pan-national funeral committee for Rev. Mun Ik-hwan, Paek In-chun notified the committee that four delegates including himself and some support personnel and journalists would pass through Panmunjom at eight A.M. April 26 to attend the memorial service and leave Seoul for home on the afternoon of April 28.

Hwang Chang-yop Meets Visiting Liaoning Official

*SK1404052294 Pyongyang KCNA in English 0452
GMT 14 Apr 94*

[Text] Pyongyang, April 14 (KCNA)—Hwang Chang-yop, secretary of the Central Committee of the Workers' Party of Korea (WPK), Wednesday met and had a friendly conversation with a delegation of the Liaoning Provincial Committee of the Communist Party of China led by its Secretary Gu Jinchi.

On hand were Kim Yang-kon, vice-director of a department of the WPK Central Committee, and Qiao Zong-huai, Chinese ambassador to Korea.

Vice Premier Chang Chol Meets Cambodian Guest

*SK1304213494 Pyongyang KCNA in English 1509
GMT 13 Apr 94*

[Text] Pyongyang, April 13 (KCNA)—Vice-premier Chang Chol today met and conversed in a friendly atmosphere with Seyassi Sereyvuth Pannara, deputy secretary of state for Ministry of Art of the Kingdom of Cambodia, at the Mansudae Assembly Hall.

Noting the intimate relations established between the great leader President Kim Il-song and his Majesty King Norodom Sihanouk of Cambodia will be everlasting, the deputy secretary expressed firm solidarity with the Korean people's cause of national reunification.

Present there were Vice-minister of Culture and Art Yun Kyong-nam and Cambodian Ambassador to Korea Oum Mannorine.

Hwang Chang-yop Meets Japanese Delegations

*SK1604044994 Pyongyang KCNA in English 0418
GMT 16 Apr 94*

[Text] Pyongyang, April 16 (KCNA)—Hwang Chang-yop, secretary of the Central Committee of the Workers' Party of Korea, Friday separately met and had a friendly talk with a delegation of the secretariat of the Society for the Study of the Chuche Idea of Japanese Teachers headed by Masagaju Yokobori, advisor and secretary

general of the Liaison Council of the Society for the Study of Comrade Kim Chong-il Works, and a delegation of the Japan-Korea Friendship Data Centre headed by Yoshiyuki Oe, chairman of the centre and chairman of the S. B. B. company of Japan.

On hand was vice-chairman of the Korean Society for Cultural Relations with Foreign Countries O Mun-han.

WPK, Socialist Party of Kazakhstan Held Talks

*SK1404051094 Pyongyang KCNA in English 0429
GMT 14 Apr 94*

[Text] Pyongyang, April 14 (KCNA)—Talks between delegations of the Workers' Party of Korea (WPK) and the Socialist Party of Kazakhstan were held here Wednesday.

Present at the talks on the Korean side were secretary of the C.C. [Central Committee], the WPK Hwang Chang-yop and officials concerned, and on the opposite side were members of the delegation of the Socialist Party of Kazakhstan headed by its co-chairman P. V. Svoik.

The sides informed each other of the activities and situation of their parties and exchanged views on further strengthening and developing the relations of friendship and cooperation between the two parties and some other questions of common concern.

The talks proceeded in a friendly atmosphere.

Kim Il-song Receives Letter From India Seminar

*SK1404053294 Pyongyang KCNA in English 0504
GMT 14 Apr 94*

[Text] Pyongyang, April 14 (KCNA)—The great leader President Kim Il-song received a letter from the participants in the international chuche idea seminar on independence, peace and friendship held in New Delhi.

The letter dated April 10 says:

"The seminar stressed that the idea of independence, peace and friendship elucidated by the chuche idea is a universal idea embodying the intrinsic nature of independent people and the common desire of the people in our time to live a happy life, loving and helping each other in a free and peaceful world without domination and subjugation, aggression and war.

"The participants in the seminar called for strengthening the unity of the people and actively mobilizing them in the building of a new society on the principle of the chuche idea that to strengthen the driving force of the revolution and enhance its role is a fundamental guarantee for the building of an independent new society."

The letter says they are greatly encouraged by the proud looks and indomitable spirit of the Korean people who are firmly defending the man-centred socialism with the might of singlehearted unity under the wise guidance of President Kim Il-song, under the difficult conditions

created by the intensified anti-socialist, anti-DPRK campaign of the imperialists and reactionaries.

It stresses that they, together with the progressive people of the world advocating independence, express firm solidarity with the Korean people in the struggle to defend the dignity of the nation and the gains of socialism and extend full support to the Korean people in the noble cause of reunifying the country independently and peacefully on the basis of the ten-point programme of the great unity of the whole nation for the reunification of the country put forward by President Kim Il-song.

The letter sincerely wishes President Kim Il-song good health and a long life.

Foreign Special Envoys Visit DPRK Embassies

*SK1804110094 Pyongyang KCNA in English 1011
GMT 18 Apr 94*

[Text] Pyongyang, April 18 (KCNA)—On the occasion of the birthday of the great leader President Kim Il-song, Amoussouvi Vignako Amedegnato, general secretary of the Togolese People's Rally, and Amour Gabir, secretary of the Egyptian presidency, visited the Korean Embassies in their countries respectively as a special envoy of Togolese President Eyadema Gnassingbe and as a special envoy of Egyptian President Muhammad Husni Mubarak.

The special envoy of the Togolese president said he has come to know well about what an arduous path of revolution the great leader President Kim Il-song had covered, and was deeply moved by his brilliant life dedicated to the people, after reading his reminiscences "With the Century".

Now the Korean people are bravely countering provocations of the U.S. imperialists, under the wise leadership of dear His Excellency Kim Chong-il who is carrying forward the revolutionary cause of the great leader, he said.

The U.S. imperialists, he went on, are trying to stifle Korea on the pretext of the "nuclear issue", but they can never break the might of the Korean people who are united in one mind around dear His Excellency Kim Chong-il, an outstanding great man and brilliant commander of the present time.

Saying the Togolese people regard with envy the unity and cohesion of the Korean people behind the leader, he voiced full support to the struggle of the Korean people to defend socialism and reunify the country.

He wished good health and long life to the great leader His Excellency President Kim Il-song and dear His Excellency Kim Chong-il, and greater success to the brave Korean people.

The special envoy of the Egyptian president conveyed to the Korean ambassador greetings of President

Muhammad Husni Mubarak to respected His Excellency President Kim Il-song on the occasion of his birthday.

Production of Magnesia Clinker Reported

*SK2004160494 Pyongyang KCNA in English 1544
GMT 20 Apr 94*

[Text] Pyongyang, April 20 (KCNA)—Magnesia clinker of Korea is popular at the international market.

It is exported to more than 10 countries and the needs for it are on a steady increase.

Korea is one of the biggest magnesia clinker producers in the world.

The country abounds in magnesite minerals needed for the production of magnesia clinker.

Its deposits and quality rank first in the world.

Magnesite is widely used not only as a fire-proof material resisting the temperature of more than 2,800 degrees centigrades but in the industrial domains for the production of metal magnesium, cement, rubber, paper, porcelain, etc.

Its major producer is Tanchon in South Hamgyong Province.

Deposits of magnesite in this area are estimated at several billion tons and its mining conditions are very favourable.

The Yongyang mine called "white gold mountain" is mainly engaged in opencast mining. It was developed 50 years past.

The Tachung general mining enterprise developed extensively in the 70s annually produces several hundred thousand tons of magnesia clinker, or nearly a half of the magnesite ore production of the country. Its production capacity is being expanded.

There are modernly-equipped magnesite mineral processing bases in Tanchon, Kim Chack, Chongjin and other areas.

The state is increasing investment in the production of magnesia clinker.

Kim Chong-il Sends Thanks to Scientists

*SK1404130694 Pyongyang KCNA in English 1024
GMT 14 Apr 94*

[Text] Pyongyang, April 14 (KCNA)—The dear leader Comrade Kim Chong-il sent thanks to the revolutionary relics preservation institute of the Hamhung Branch of the State Academy of Sciences.

Its scientists found tens of thousands of peeled trees throughout the country and discovered many revolutionary slogans on trees by methods of newly-developed fluorescent light projection and exposure of letter.

They contrived simple devices to see slogans on trees in the open air and generalized them across the country. They also successfully solved scientific and technical questions in permanently preserving revolutionary relics including slogan-bearing trees.

Comrade Kim Chong-il sent thanks to the working people who had done good things for the society and collective—director of the Red Cross General Hospital of Korea Ho Chol-yong and 8 other medical team members, director of the Chongryong County People's Hospital Kim Yong-il and secretary of the Primary Party Committee of the Hospital Han Chong-sun and other medical workers, officials and workers of the Sinchang shallow sea cultivation station, instructor of the Songdowon Tourist Hotel Kim Kum-ok and others of the service section No 2, officers of the Chungsan County public security station in South Pyongan Province, workers of the Mundok County commercial management office and Mun Yong-su who is working as a three-revolution team member after graduating from the metal processing faculty of the Pyongyang University of Mechanical Engineering.

Kim Il-song Names Fossil Unearthed in Sinuiju
SK1304214094 Pyongyang KCNA in English 1502 GMT 13 Apr 94

[Text] Pyongyang, April 13 (KCNA)—The fossil of a frog which lived about 150 million years ago was recently unearthed in Sinuiju, a northwestern city of Korea.

Last year the fossil of Korean archaeopteryx of the early Jurassic period of the Mesozoic era was discovered there, which shows the course of the evolution of birds from primitive reptiles, a higher land vertebrate. This convincingly proved Korea being a cradle of human civilization where extinct animals and plants evolved systematically.

The discovery of the fossil frog in the same stratum is an irrefutable proof that a fast evolution of the frog was in progress in the Mesozoic era on the globe and the northwestern part of Korea was the central arena of that evolution.

The great leader President Kim Il-song named the oldest known fossil frog discovered this time "archaeofrog."

The fossil unearthed and ascertained by authoritative natural scientists clearly preserves part of the vertebra, foreleg bone, hindleg bone, and the pelvis.

Fossil frogs in the world had so far been discovered in the stratum belonging to the period of and after the third Cenozoic era, or about 60 million years ago. The frog fossil recently unearthed in Korea belong to a time 90 million years earlier.

With the discovery of the fossil of archaeofrog which helps establish a new academic view on the evolution of

the frog and its phylogeny and classification system, the long history of the land of Korea has become ever clearer.

South Korea

Students Storm Ministry To Protest Perry Visit
SK2004070194 Seoul YONHAP in English 0651 GMT 20 Apr 94

[Text] Seoul, April 20 (YONHAP)—More than 100 university students protesting U.S. Secretary of Defense William Perry's visit stormed into the Defense Ministry compound on Wednesday. The protest occurred around 1:20 PM, when Perry entered a second-floor conference room in the main building for talks with his Korean counterpart, Yi Pyong-tae, after reviewing an honor guard in the ministry compound.

Perry arrived here Tuesday to discuss problems related to beefing up Seoul's defense against possible North Korean attack with South Korean Government leaders.

The students, shouting anti-American slogans, demonstrated in front of the ministry's main building for about 30 minutes before they were forcibly dispersed by riot police.

It was the first time that student protesters have entered the Defense Ministry compound. Military police guarding were unable to stop the students when they moved into the compound through the vehicle gate, witnesses said.

Kim Yong-sam Talks With U.S. Secretary Perry
SK2004115694 Seoul YONHAP in English 1143 GMT 20 Apr 94

[Text] Seoul, April 20 (YONHAP)—President Kim Yong-sam met visiting U.S. Defense Secretary William Perry and Assistant Secretary of State Robert Gallucci at Chongwadae [presidential office] Wednesday afternoon to exchange opinions on the North Korean nuclear question and the latest military movement in North Korea.

During the meeting, President Kim said the nuclear issue ought to be resolved through dialogue. "But, if dialogue efforts fail to bring about any tangible result, there would be no way but to use the last card, namely, a U.N. sanction," Chongwadae spokesman Chu Ton-sik quoted Kim as saying. Chu said the presidential position was readily agreed to by Secretary Perry.

President Kim and Secretary Perry shared the view that the resolution of the North Korean nuclear question requires solid and close cooperative system between South Korea and the United States and that presently bilateral cooperation is in a satisfactory state.

Secretary Perry said in particular that if the U.N. Security Council takes a sanction, it would apparently offend

North Korea, adding his country is prepared to take full defensive steps in such a circumstance.

A number of Korean and American officials were present at the Chongwadae meeting. They included Defense Minister Yi Pyong-tae, Joint Chiefs of Staff Chairman Yi Yang-ho and Chief Presidential Secretary Pak Kwan-yong from Korea. Among the U.S. officials present were Ambassador James Laney and U.S. Forces in Korea Commander Gen. Gary Luck.

Spokesman Chang Summarizes Perry-Han Talks

SK2004094894 Seoul YONHAP in English 0940 GMT 20 Apr 94

[Text] Seoul, April 20 (YONHAP)—Foreign Minister Han Sung-chu and visiting U.S. Defense Secretary William Perry on Wednesday agreed on the importance of additional nuclear inspection of North Korea. Ministers Han and Perry shared the view that what is most important at this stage is for North Korea to accept additional inspection of their nuclear facilities, Foreign Ministry spokesman Chang Ki-ho said.

Chang said the two ministers agreed that only after North Korea underwent additional inspection can third-round U.S.-North Korea high-level talks be held to discuss comprehensively the nuclear question and the issue of improving Washington-Pyongyang relations.

During the meeting, Perry stressed the importance of resolving the nuclear issue through diplomatic efforts as far as possible, the spokesman said.

The two ministers also observed that if North Korea fails to accept additional inspections within a given period, it would be unavoidable to promote a sanction against Pyongyang by the U.N. Security Council. In this connection, the spokesman said, Han and Perry decided to build up the joint defense ability of South Korea and the United States to prepare against any contingency.

The two ministers, however, ruled that the Korean peninsula is not in a critical state at the moment because there is no unusual military movement on the part of North Korea. They further reaffirmed the principle that the inter-Korean dialogue and U.S.-North Korea talks should be promoted in a complementary way, spokesman Chang said.

Security Official, U.S.'s Gallucci Consult

SK2004110794 Seoul HANGUK ILBO in Korean 20 April 94 p 2

[Text] Kim Tok, head of the Agency for National Security Planning [NSP], met Robert Gallucci, assistant secretary of state for political and military affairs, on 19 April and held consultations on the future negotiation strategy over North Korea's nuclear issue. They shared the same view that it is crucial that the two sides adhere

to the firm negotiation principles and maintain the tight ROK-U.S. cooperative system to have successful negotiations with North Korea.

N-S Dialogue Not Tied to DPRK-U.S. Talks

SK2004134094 Seoul KBS-1 Radio Network in Korean 1300 GMT 20 Apr 94

[Text] Foreign Minister Han Sung-chu has revealed that the South-North dialogue is not a precondition for the third round of U.S.-DPRK talks. He clearly stated that if North Korea accepts the additional International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) inspection, the third round of U.S.-DPRK talks will begin.

In a news conference with foreign reporters at the Press Center on 20 April, Foreign Minister Han said that South-North dialogue is very important for a comprehensive and complete resolution of the North Korean nuclear issue, but the South-North dialogue can be a long-term precondition to solve it.

Minister Han also said that what is important under the current situation is for North Korea to accept the IAEA's inspection so that it can prove that it is not developing nuclear weapons. In addition, he stated that if North Korea shows the will to comply with the UN Security Council's president statement, the U.S.-DPRK contact can resume.

Team Spirit To Proceed If DPRK Rejects Check

SK2004084494 Seoul YONHAP in English 0832 GMT 20 Apr 94

[Text] Seoul, April 20 (YONHAP)—South Korea and the United States decided Wednesday to conduct this year's "Team Spirit" joint military exercise in November if North Korea continues to refuse additional nuclear inspections by the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) and does not show sincerity in resuming inter-Korean dialogue.

The decision came at an hour-long meeting between South Korean Defense Minister Yi Pyong-tae and his U.S. counterpart William Perry at the Defense Ministry. They evaluated the current situation concerning the North Korean nuclear dispute before arriving at their position.

The top defense officials decided to consider suspending the joint military exercise in case North Korea meets such conditions for a third round of Washington-Pyongyang high-level talks.

Accordingly, the governments of the two countries will hold the Team Spirit exercise should they find no progress in talks over the North Korean nuclear issue after watching the developments of the end of October.

Yi and Perry discussed ways to maintain the kind of deterrent force which has defended peace on the Korean peninsula for the past four decades in preparation for eventualities in the future.

The two defense ministers shared the view that the deployment of such advanced defensive weapons as Patriot missiles at American military bases in Korea would help beef up anti-air raid and anti-ballistic missile defense capability and contribute to joint Korea-U.S. deterrence of war.

In the meeting, Minister Yi said the Korean military is seeking to increase anti-artillery and night combat capabilities.

Perry said that the United States is persistently pushing for the modernization of its forces in Korea.

The ministers, however, agreed that there are no particular signs of North Korea moving to militarily provoke for the present.

The U.S. defense secretary, who arrived here Tuesday, conferred with Foreign Minister Han Sung-chu and senior presidential secretary for foreign and national security affairs, Chong Chong-uk.

The defense secretary is scheduled to visit the Second U.S. Infantry Division Thursday before leaving Seoul for Japan.

IAEA Inspection 'Basic Obligation'

SK2004102494 Seoul YONHAP in English 1013 GMT
20 Apr 94

[Text] Seoul, April 20 (YONHAP)—South Korea and the United States are still willing to suspend this year's joint military exercise "Team Spirit" if North Korea allow satisfactory nuclear inspections, Foreign Minister Han Sung-chu said Wednesday.

"Whether Team Spirit will resume this year depends entirely upon North Korea," he told a press conference with foreign correspondents, "whether North Korea allows necessary inspections by the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) or not."

The remarks came immediately after defense ministers of the two countries agreed to go ahead with the annual maneuver in November if the inspection issue is not settled by then.

Seoul and Washington had announced last month Team Spirit suspension for 1994 on condition that the IAEA inspection on North Korea concludes in satisfaction. But IAEA inspectors reported they were hindered from full monitoring activities and were denied access to critical sites necessary in guaranteeing nuclear safeguards.

Han held Pyongyang responsible for the delayed North Korea-U.S. high-level talks, blaming the Stalinist state for not keeping its end of the bargain.

"The meeting with the United States on North Korea's part is not simply a right it has but a favor U.S. can give," said Han, "IAEA inspection obligation is a basic obligation."

Pyongyang cannot expect the favor without fulfilling this basic obligation, he told the correspondents.

There are two types of necessary inspections, one necessary for maintaining the monitoring equipment such as cameras in operation, and the other for guaranteeing continuity in safeguards, the part that was left incomplete in March.

"One of the key conditions not met for the 3rd round (of North Korea-U.S. Talks) is the completion of the March inspection necessary for continuity of safeguards," he said.

"Inspection itself or promise of inspection will have to take place before any discussion between United States and North Korea." But despite all the frustrations, the international community still insists on diplomatic settlement of the crisis, he noted.

"...Despite our frustration caused by Pyongyang's intransigence, we must continue our on-going efforts to settle the issue through dialogue," said Han.

Asked about any guarantee of China's consent when the matter is referred to strong action by the U.N. Security Council, the foreign minister emphasized that the North Korean ally has played a positive role in the past through the process of diplomatic efforts.

"If such efforts all fail, then China will cooperate with the rest of the international community in trying to pursue whatever means possible to make North Korea comply," he said.

American Reportedly To Deliver SPA Letter

SK2004002294 Seoul HANGYORE SINMUN in Korean
20 Apr 94 p 1

[YONHAP from Beijing]

[Text] William Taylor, deputy chief of the U.S. Institute for Strategy and International Affairs, said on 19 April that "North Korea would likely accept additional nuclear inspections by the International Atomic Energy Agency as soon as possible." He also said that "countries concerned should first take steps to provide economic support to North Korea, to recognize it as state, and to normalize relations with it."

Deputy Chief Taylor arrived in Beijing on 19 April after visiting North Korea on 12 April at the invitation of the North Korean authorities for the participation in President Kim Il-sung's 82d birthday festival. In an interview with YONHAP News Agency, he said that "although he is carrying a letter signed by Kim Yong-sun, chairman of the Reunification and Policy Committee of the North Korean Supreme People's Assembly to a South Korean

high-level authority, he cannot disclose its contents right now." He has strongly expressed the intention to convey North Korea's formal position to the South Korean Government regarding the North Korean nuclear issue, North-South summit talks, and the resumption of North-South dialogue.

Declines To Comment on Content

*SK2004033094 Seoul YONHAP in English 0305 GMT
20 Apr 94*

[Text] Beijing, April 20 (YONHAP)—North Korea is expected to permit additional IAEA (International Atomic Energy Agency) inspections of its nuclear facilities soon, an American researcher on Korean affairs, said here Tuesday upon arriving from Pyongyang.

William Taylor, vice president of the Center for Strategic and International Studies, told YONHAP in an exclusive interview that he expects North Korea to allow further IAEA checks in the near future, though he cannot tell exactly when.

Taylor visited Pyongyang from April 12-19 at the North Korean Government's invitation for President Kim Il-sung's 82nd birthday and met with Kim for three and a half hours.

He said that during the meeting he got the impression that an inter-Korean summit would take place if the North and South relaxed their bureaucratic rigidity, though Kim did not make any direct mention of a summit.

Facing the United States, Japan and South Korea which he said have "strong hands," North Korea has only one card to use, staking everything on its nuclear program; to spur the North Koreans toward settlement of the dispute, the United States, Japan and South Korea should first prepare to offer economic assistance and diplomatic recognition, observed Taylor, who has visited Pyongyang four times.

He revealed that he is carrying a message from Kim Yong-sun, chairman of the Supreme People's Assembly Unification Policy Committee, which he will personally deliver to a ranking South Korean Government official on or after Thursday, but he declined to comment on the message's content.

Taylor thus suggested he will convey Pyongyang's official position on resuming inter-Korean dialogue ahead of a summit and the nuclear dispute to Seoul later this week.

Taylor said North Korea would announce "very soon" a set of opening measures exceeding the existing joint-venture law in scope.

Chinese, Japanese and German companies already sell products to North Korea and its trade with third world

countries is brisk; should this situation continue, South Korea and the United States would be the last in line for North Korea, he observed.

Denying western reports that North Koreans lead a miserable life, Taylor said the people looked healthy and happy despite President Kim's admission of food, clothing and energy shortages.

He said he had not conveyed a message from President Bill Clinton to Kim during his stay in Pyongyang nor was he carrying a message from Kim to either Clinton or South Korean President Kim Yong-sam.

Taylor leaves for Seoul on Thursday and will stay there until next Tuesday.

Direct Shipping to DPRK Harbor Allowed

*SK2004120394 Seoul YONHAP in English 1147 GMT
20 Apr 94*

[Text] Seoul, April 20 (YONHAP)—The South Korean Government on Wednesday allowed a local shipping line to run a freighter directly to a North Korean harbor. Samsun Shipping Corp. will haul 250 tons of Remicon facilities and equipment to Yanji in northeastern China via Chongjin, a northern east coast harbor of North Korea.

An official at Samsun Shipping said one of its vessels, "Halibut," would leave Pusan at 8 P.M. Wednesday and enter Chongjin on April 22. After unloading its cargo, the vessel of St. Vincent registry will leave Chongjin on April 25 and return to Pusan around April 27, he said. The direct shipping from South Korea to the North will be the first of its kind in two years and eight months after the same line shipped 5,000 tons of South Korean rice from Mokpo to Najin in July 1991.

Samsun Shipping is learned to have set up a joint-venture firm with the Xianhu business group in China's Yanbian area last month and agreed to open a sea route linking Pusan and Chongjin. "We have approved the Pusan-Chongjin shipping because North Korea allowed the Xianhu business group to use the Chongjin harbor for cargoes from anywhere in the world," a National Unification Board official said.

Xianhu concluded a joint-venture contract with North Korea last June for the development of the Chongjin harbor, under which the Chinese group possesses the exclusive right to use the North Korean harbor for 50 years, the official explained.

DPRK Proposal for N-S Contact Rejected

*SK2004052094 Seoul KBS-1 Radio Network in Korean
0435 GMT 20 Apr 94*

[Text] North Korea sent a telephone message today to our side in the name of Paek In-chun, chairman of the North Side's Headquarters of the Pannational Alliance for the Country's Reunification [Pomminyon],

informing us that it will send a delegation to the 100-day memorial services for late Rev. Mun Ik-hwan slated for 27 April. The telephone message proposed that a working-level contact be held to discuss this matter on 22 April in Panmunjom.

The National Unification Board announced that it will not respond to this proposal, claiming that Pomminyon has not only been described in the domestic laws as a pro-enemy organization but the proposal will not be conducive to alleviating today's tense North-South relations created by the nuclear issue.

Seoul Seeks UN Assistance for DPRK Loggers

SK1604025394 Seoul YONHAP in English 0237 GMT 16 Apr 94

[Text] Seoul, April 16 (YONHAP)—South Korea has sought cooperation from the Geneva-based U.N. High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) through formal diplomatic channels on relocating North Korean loggers fleeing from Siberian camps, a Foreign Ministry official said Saturday.

Seoul's mission in Geneva explained about the human rights conditions at the Pyongyang-run logging camps and about those escapees reportedly seeking defection to South Korea to the U.N. body, requesting its support for their resettlement in the South, the official said.

The government told the UNHCR that it was willing to accept all logging refugees wishing to live in the South as well as others in the future after discussions with the Russian Government.

Out of an estimated 25,000 loggers, some 170 escapees are said to want to settle in the South.

The government also instructed its embassy in Russia to protect North Korean loggers seeking help and to assist them in coming to the South after confirming their identification and choice of future residence together with the Russian Government and the UNHCR, the official said.

The Ministry, meeting on the matter Friday, decided to support the loggers' resettlement according to the protection law for North Korean defectors if the number is low.

But if too many wish to live in the South, the government will revise the law and reduce the available funding for them.

A team comprising officials from the Economic Planning Board, the Labor Ministry, the Agency for National Security Planning, the Health and Social Affairs Ministry and the National Police Agency will be formed to assist the loggers.

Official: 300 DPRK Loggers Hiding in Russia

SK1804014194 Seoul YONHAP in English 0117 GMT 18 Apr 94

[Text] Seoul, April 18 (YONHAP)—More than 300 North Koreans who escaped from Siberian logging yards are hiding in Russia, besides the 200 or so who have already sought refuge in the South, a senior government official said Sunday.

The official said, "the government has investigated the number of escapees from Siberian logging camps and found that there are still 300 more North Korean escapees who have not sought refuge in the South."

However, he said, once the government actually allows the North Koreans to settle here, more escapees are expected to seek refuge in South Korea.

"It seems that they have not visited the South Korean Embassy to seek refuge for fear that it would harm their families in North Korea," he said.

The government has also discovered that some escapees want to settle in Russia rather than in South Korea.

"If they wish to live in Russia, the government will support their settlement there through consultation with the Russian Government."

North Korea operates logging yards in Siberia under a contract with the Russian Government, with hundreds of North Korean loggers reportedly having escaped due to poor working conditions and alleged infringement of human rights.

The logging contract between Russia and North Korea was to expire at the end of last year and the two sides are now negotiating renewal after Moscow demanded an improvement in human rights conditions at the camps.

DPRK Loggers From CIS Republics Discussed

SK1804012194 Seoul YONHAP in English 0109 GMT 18 Apr 94

[Text] Seoul, April 18 (YONHAP)—The government has begun negotiations to bring to South Korea escapees from North Korea-run logging camps in Uzbekistan and Kazakhstan, Foreign Ministry officials said Monday.

Eight North Koreans have asked to be brought here through the South Korean Embassy in Kazakhstan and five more at the Embassy in Uzbekistan, the officials said.

"The government will seek cooperation with these countries as well as with Russia to resettle them here," said one official. "Negotiations are under way and we have asked for support from the U.N. High Commissioner for Refugees."

Seoul announced last week that it would accept all camp escapees as long as they are not serious criminal offenders.

The number of those in flight is estimated to be as high as 500.

Foreign Minister on DPRK 'Escapees' in FRC
SK2004103094 Seoul YONHAP in English 1017 GMT
20 Apr 94

[Text] Seoul, April 20 (YONHAP)—There is no plan to bring North Korean escapees currently sheltering in China, Foreign Minister Han Sung-chu said Wednesday. "Right now, the most urgent issue is with those who have escaped from logging camps in Siberia," Han said in a press conference with foreign correspondents.

Seoul announced this week it will accept all North Koreans who fled the logging camps in Siberia and seek resettlement in South Korea. The number is estimated at as many as 500.

The decision focused new attention of another group of North Koreans who have fled the home government and are in flight throughout China, seeking a way to the South. "We have no particular plans to actively seek return, coming of those in China, simply because we don't have the kind of requests that were made in connection with the loggers in Siberia," Han told reporters.

Pyongyang and Beijing have an agreement that says the two sides will repatriate any illegal entrants from the other side. Officials here have said they are concerned any exposure of such North Koreans in hiding in China will risk their personal safety.

President Kim Commemorates 'April 19 Revolution'
SK1904035294 Seoul YONHAP in English 0152 GMT
19 Apr 94

[Text] Seoul, April 19 (YONHAP)—Commemorating the 34th anniversary of the "April 19 Revolution," the student uprising in 1960 that toppled the Syngman Rhee regime, President Kim Yong-sam visited the April 19 cemetery in Suyuri Tuesday and paid his respects at the newly built and relocated shrine of the fallen demonstrators.

Kim labeled the student uprising a "revolution" once he became president last year and began work to make the cemetery holy precincts.

Noting the spirit of April 19 had been newly enhanced since the birth of his civilian government last year, Kim called for further efforts to develop the uprising's legacy.

He ordered the commemorative service and events be held in the cemetery from next year once the refurbishment is finished.

He spoke with representatives of the bereaved families and then leaders of the student movement while walking around the grounds.

Kim became the first incumbent president to visit the cemetery last year.

Other government and political leaders, together with students and bereaved families, lined up to pay homage to those who died during clashes with the police.

Prime Minister Yi Hoe-chang, government leaders and nearly 500 representatives of the uprising held a commemorative ceremony, sponsored by the Patriots and Veterans Affairs Ministry, at the Sejong Cultural Center in downtown Seoul.

"The basic idea behind the April 19 (Revolution) is to create a constitutional nation where people's rights are guaranteed and individual freedom is allowed," Yi said in a keynote speech.

"We should not forget that we were able to open up a real democratic era today because of the firm faith in democracy implanted through the April 19 (event)," he said.

He declared that the government was hastening to carry out legal revisions to reappraise the democratic revolution.

Similar ceremonies were held in other cities and provinces.

The uprising, designated as a revolution from this year, was marked not only by dissident parties and students but by political leaders from both the ruling and opposition camps.

Opposition Democratic Party leader Yi Ki-taek and 200 party members visited the cemetery early in the morning, followed immediately by ruling Democratic Liberal Party members led by Executive Chairman Kim Chong-pil.

Cemetery managers expect more than 10,000 visitors during the day.

Nearly 7,000 university students in Seoul gathered for ceremonies at their respective campuses to hold various events including a marathon, street march and cycling games.

An opera on the subject will be performed in the evening at the Seoul Opera Theater.

Burma**Thai Foreign Minister Makes Official Visit****Arrives in Rangoon***BK1904161794 Rangoon Radio Burma in Burmese
1330 GMT 19 Apr 94*

[Text] A Thai delegation led by Mr. Prasong Sunsiri, Thai foreign minister and chairman of the ASEAN Standing Committee, arrived in Myanmar [Burma] by special aircraft this morning at the invitation of U Ohn Gyaw, minister of foreign affairs of the Union of Myanmar. The delegation was welcomed at Yangon [Rangoon] airport by Foreign Affairs Minister U Ohn Gyaw, Deputy Foreign Affairs Minister U Nyunt Swe, responsible personnel from the Foreign Ministry, Thai Ambassador Mr. Wirasak Putrakun, and embassy officials.

Senior General Than Shwe, chairman of the State Law and Order Restoration Council [SLORC] of the Union of Myanmar and commander in chief of the defense services, received the Thai delegation led by Mr. Prasong Sunsiri, Thai foreign minister and chairman of the ASEAN Standing Committee, at the Protocol Chamber of the Pyeithu Hluttaw [People's Assembly] Building at 1500 this evening.

Also present on the occasion were General Maung Aye, SLORC member, deputy commander in chief of defense services, and Army commander in chief; Lieutenant General Khin Nyunt, SLORC secretary-1; Lt. Gen. Tin U, SLORC secretary-2; U Ohn Gyaw, minister of foreign affairs; U Nyunt Swe, deputy minister of foreign affairs; and Mr. Wirasak Putrakun, ambassador of Thailand.

In addition, SLORC Secretary-1 Lt. Gen. Khin Nyunt received the Thai delegation led by Mr. Prasong Sunsiri at the Defense Ministry's Dagon House at 1700.

Holds Bilateral Talks*BK1904161394 Rangoon Radio Burma in Burmese
1330 GMT 19 Apr 94*

[Text] A Myanmar [Burmese] delegation led by Foreign Affairs Minister U Ohn Gyaw and a Thai delegation led by Mr. Prasong Sunsiri, foreign minister and chairman of the ASEAN Standing Committee, held bilateral talks at the Seinlekantha State Guest House at 1230 this afternoon. The Myanmar delegation included Deputy Foreign Affairs Minister U Nyunt Swe and responsible personnel while the Thai delegation included Thai Ambassador Mr. Wirasak Putrakun.

At the meeting, cordial talks were held on bilateral relations and cooperation matters. Foreign Affairs Minister U Ohn Gyaw hosted a dinner in honor of the Thai foreign minister and delegation at the People's Park Restaurant in the evening.

Ohn Gyaw Hosts Dinner*BK2004030794 Rangoon Radio Burma in Burmese
0130 GMT 20 Apr 94*

[Text] Foreign Minister U Ohn Gyaw hosted a dinner in honor of Mr. Prasong Sunsiri, visiting Thai foreign minister and chairman of the ASEAN Standing Committee, and his delegation at 1900 yesterday at the People's Park Restaurant.

The dinner was attended by Deputy Foreign Minister U Nyunt Swe and invited guests. Also present at the dinner with Thai Foreign Minister Mr. Prasong Sunsiri and his delegation were Mr. Wirasak Putrakun, Thai ambassador to Myanmar [Burma].

ASEAN, Bilateral Issues Discussed*BK2004045094 Bangkok BANGKOK POST in English
20 Apr 94 p6*

[Text] Thailand yesterday invited Burmese Foreign Minister Ohn Gyaw on an official visit to Bangkok as guest of the Foreign Ministry. The visit is separate to that for the ASEAN meeting in July.

"We extended the invitation to Burmese Foreign Minister U Ohn Gyaw to visit Thailand, and hope to meet him in July at the meeting of ASEAN foreign ministers," said Foreign Ministry spokesman Suwit Simasakun after hour-long talks between Foreign Minister Prasong Sunsiri and his Burmese counterpart.

Thailand also informed Burma members of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations were considering its status at the ASEAN foreign ministers meeting due to take place in Bangkok, he said.

Sqn Ldr Prasong said his visit was not intended simply to extend an invitation to Rangoon but was aimed at explaining the whole ASEAN process and to assess the situation in Burma.

He said Burma had given a "very" positive response to his approach for Rangoon's participation at the July meeting.

It has not been decided what status Burma should be offered in joining the meeting since Thailand has to consult further with other ASEAN members, the Foreign Minister said.

ASEAN senior officials last month raised no objections to Thailand inviting Burma as a "guest of the host country".

Burma also expressed interest in Thailand's initiative to organise a 10-nation meeting which would not be under the framework of ASEAN, said Sqn Ldr Prasong.

The meeting plans to bring together the six ASEAN countries, three Indochinese states—Cambodia, Laos and Vietnam—and Burma. The idea was raised by Sqn Ldr Prasong in an attempt to speed up the integration of the 10 Southeast Asian nations.

The Foreign Minister arrived in Rangoon yesterday for a two-day visit in the capacity of chairman of the ASEAN Standing Committee and Thailand's foreign minister.

On bilateral issues, the two sides agreed to hold a second meeting of the Thai-Burmese Joint Commission in September in Bangkok, the spokesman said.

Sqn Ldr Prasong said Thailand and Burma also agreed to discuss in detail the construction, use and management of a bridge across the Moei River from Mae Sot in Tak province to Burma's Myawaddy.

A technical team will be discussed as soon as possible to settle all details to facilitate construction, he said.

The Cabinet early this year approved construction of the bridge.

Burma has agreed to reconsider Thailand's request to reduce the sentences of Thai prisoners, said Mr Suwit.

Sqn Ldr Prasong yesterday also held talks with Gen Than Shwe, chairman of the State Law and Order Restoration Council, and SLORC secretary Lt-Gen Khin Nyunt.

Brunei, Malaysia & Singapore

Malaysia

Iranian Speaker Continues Official Visit

Urges UN Chief To Resign

BK1904151294 Kuala Lumpur Radio Malaysia Network in Malay 1300 GMT 19 Apr 94

[Text] Iran has urged UN Secretary General Butrus Ghali to immediately submit his resignation from the world body. Iranian Majles Speaker 'Ali Akbar Nateq-Nuri, who is currently on an official visit to Malaysia, stated that Mr. Butrus is incapable and has failed in his duty to end the massacre of Bosnian Muslims in Bosnia-Herzegovina.

Speaking at a news conference in Kuala Lumpur at the end of his three-day visit, he said the secretary general of the world organization should immediately tender his resignation. Mr. 'Ali also condemned the United Nations for its failure to play its role as a peace mediator in an effort to end the Serbian atrocities on Bosnian Muslims. He urged all Muslim nations to unite and strongly pressure the international community to act against the Serbian atrocities and massacres, particularly in Gorazde. He also expressed regret over the world organization's attitude of rejecting Iran's offer to send 10,000 of its troops to Bosnia while at the same time accepting Russia's offer.

Criticizes UN 'Indifference'

LD1904163794 Tehran IRNA in English 1422 GMT 19 Apr 94

[Text] Kuala Lumpur, April 19, IRNA—Malaysian Prime Minister Mahathir Mohamed and visiting Iranian Majlis speaker Hojjat ol-Eslam 'Ali Akbar Nateq-Nuri discussed Tehran-Kuala Lumpur ties and major regional and international issues in a meeting here Tuesday.

Nateq-Nuri underscored the need for promotion of political and economic cooperation between the two Muslim countries. He also condemned the UN secretary general's indifference towards the rights of the Bosnian Muslims and suggested that Muslim countries should mobilize their forces to defend them.

Mohamed termed as "successful" the visit to Malaysia of Nateq-Nuri and said that such visits provide most suitable opportunities for making decision on broadening bilateral ties.

He said that his country was interested in enhancing relations with the Islamic Republic of Iran and that he had issued necessary orders in this regards after he returned from a recent official visit to Tehran.

Touching on the status quo in Bosnia-Herzegovina [B-H], he said the UN opposed despatch of the Iranian forces to that country under the pretext of their siding with the Bosnian Muslims, while it allowed pro-Serb Russians to be present there.

"The UN is responsible in this connection and we condemn the UN secretary general for his action," Malaysian prime minister said.

He called on Muslims to patch up their differences and instead adopt a unified decision to solve the problems of the Muslim world.

The two sides also discussed exports of the Iranian non-oil commodities to Malaysia, and implementation of joint projects.

Blames U.S. for 'Tragic' Fate of Gorazde

LD2004100694 Tehran IRNA in English 0935 GMT 20 Apr 94

[Text] Kuala Lumpur, April 20, IRNA—Majles Speaker 'Ali Akbar Nateq-Nuri Tuesday termed the fall of Gorazde as an "intolerable crime" and said that the tragic catastrophe was indicative of a conspiracy masterminded by the U.S. and its Western allies.

Speaking at a press conference here the speaker reiterated that the fall of Gorazde proved the futility of all U.N., Security Council and NATO agreements.

Nateq-Nuri said that the world free nations, especially Muslims, should help and support the oppressed people of Bosnia-Herzegovina with all their might.

Nateq-Nuri blamed the U.N. Secretary General Butrus Butrus-Ghali for his ineptitude and weakness in dealing with Bosnian issue. He also said that Butrus-Ghali's resignation prior to the fall of Gorazde would have been to his benefit because it would have assured him of a good reputation in history as "an honest and truthful man."

Referring to the outcome of his discussions with Malaysian officials including his counterpart Mohamed Zahir bin Haji Ismail and the Prime Minister Mahathir Mohamed as positive and constructive, the speaker said that decisions on promotion of economic and trade relations as well as on the expansion of political relations have been made by the two sides.

On bilateral economic cooperation, he commented that the joint economic commission would soon pave the way for a more active participation of private sector and Iran will also increase its purchase of palm oil from Malaysia.

On Iran-Iraq relations, Nateq-Nuri stressed that discussions at foreign ministry level have been held.

He expressed hope that agreements would be reached in this regard and added that Iran for its part has no reluctance to cooperate with Iraq.

Concludes Visit, Leaves for Pakistan

*LD2004102594 Tehran IRNA in English 0937 GMT
20 Apr 94*

[Text] Kuala Lumpur, April 20, IRNA—Majles Speaker 'Ali Akbar Nateq-Nuri wound up his four-day official visit and left here for home this morning.

He was seen off at the airport by his Malaysian counterpart Mohammed Zahir bin Haji Ismail.

Ismail expressed hope that the discussions held between the two countries would bear fruits and that bilateral diplomatic and economic relations would further broaden.

Nateq-Nuri and his entourage left Tehran on April 9 for a three-nation tour which also took them to Pakistan and Sri Lanka.

UN Urged To Lift Sanctions Against Iraq

BK1904141294 Kuala Lumpur Voice of Malaysia in English 0810 GMT 19 Apr 94

[Station commentary]

[Text] The wait still wages on whether or not to lift sanctions imposed on Iraq following the Gulf war. The UN Security Council imposed the sanctions in 1991 until the country met all demands of Resolution 687. To date, Iraq has entered into the last phase of its destruction program. If by initial difficulties it has cooperated with the UN inspectors over its nuclear arsenal site. The majority of the Security Council members and nonmembers are in favor of lifting sanctions. These countries are

satisfied that Iraq had met all the conditions. But the United States and Britain want to impose political conditions before the sanctions were lifted. This is beyond what was agreed to originally under Resolution 687. It is unfair to impose new conditions. After all, the sanctions were imposed to punish Iraq for invading Kuwait in August 1990. By now, the Iraqis would have learned their lesson. They know very well that having designs of future invasions would be met with tough retaliatory military measures.

Therefore, those obstructing the lifting of sanctions are not being fair to Iraq. Questions are being raised over the discrimination and policy selectivity with regards to Iraq's vis-a-vis UN's policies on Bosnia, Somalia, and the Israeli occupation of Palestine. So, is the Security Council fair in continuing to impose the trade and arms embargo on Iraq? Also, are the council's decisions dominated by the one or two countries and not the majority?

By now, the sanctions will have served their purpose. Continuing to punish Iraq will merely cause further hardship on its people. Through the sanctions, the people of Iraq have been facing an acute shortage of food and medicine. Although the sanctions do not include food and medicine, the inability to trade means the lack of financial resources. So, it does not have enough money to buy the much required supplies. The country is also lacking humanitarian aid. Thousands of people will die if the sanctions are not lifted. Besides this, the country plunged into an economic doom since the Gulf war for which it finds difficulty to recover.

It is about time some of the permanent members realize that the embargo is no longer justified. Only then will Iraq be able to put back its economy on the road to recovery.

However, for Iraq, the lifting of the sanctions must not mean going back to old ways. Malaysia, along with the majority of the UN members, did not condone its invasion of Kuwait. This is more so since Iraq along with Kuwait and Malaysia are Muslim countries and members of the Organization of Islamic Countries, OIC. At the same time, Saudi Arabia, Kuwait, and certain Arab countries say that Iraq is still a threat to region's security.

Three years after the Gulf war, Iraq still does not recognize the borders with Kuwait and refuses to free Kuwaitis it holds. Iraq, therefore, needs to be more forthcoming in meeting the demands of Resolution 687. It also needs to show sincere peaceful gestures to its neighbors in the Gulf. This is because Iraq's good ties with the OIC members will be crucial to ensure its survival in world trade. Also, Arab countries do not want a repeat of the invasion of Kuwait.

Defense Minister on ASEAN Defense, Security

BK2004013594 Kuala Lumpur Radio Malaysia Network in Malay 1300 GMT 19 Apr 94

[Text] Malaysia considers the development of defense among the ASEAN member countries a contribution

toward the maintenance of the region's security. Defense Minister Datuk Sri Najib Tun Razak said Malaysia does not feel threatened by such a development and the ASEAN member countries increased their purchase of defense equipment. Malaysia considers the purchase of defense equipment by ASEAN member countries a part of the armed forces modernization process. Datuk Najib told this to newsmen after opening the fourth Asian Defense Services Expo and Conference in Kuala Lumpur.

He said Malaysia also is planning to upgrade its armed forces capabilities in an effort to maintain peace and security along with its neighbors in this region. Malaysia was of the opinion that the ASEAN member countries need to further upgrade their bilateral ties, particularly in the defense sector.

Election Observers Depart for Johannesburg

BK1904160894 Kuala Lumpur Radio Malaysia Network in Malay 1300 GMT 19 Apr 94

[Text] Seven senior officials from the Elections Commission depart for Johannesburg, South Africa, tonight to participate as observers in the country's general elections to be held next week.

The Elections Commission stated in a statement that the senior officials will work under the supervision of the UN observer team in South Africa. The country's general elections will be held from 26 to 28 April.

According to the Elections Commission, this is the second time that the officials of the commission have been involved in general elections of other countries. The commission had sent seven of its officials to participate as observers in Kampuchea's multiparty general elections in May last year.

Official on Arms Seized From Vietnamese Boats

BK1904131094 Kuala Lumpur BERNAMA in English 0934 GMT 19 Apr 94

[Text] Kuala Lumpur, April 19 (OANA/BERNAMA)—Authorities seized 12 firearms, including a machine gun and two grenade launchers, from Vietnamese fishermen who encroached into Malaysian waters since 1990. Fisheries Department Marine Division Chief Abdul Hamid Shukor said among the weapons seized were two AK-44 assault rifles, five AK-47s, four M-16s, one Uzi sub-machine gun with 656 rounds of M-16 ammunition, 13 rounds on 40mm ammunition, 493 rounds of AK-47 ammunition and 35 grenades.

He said 339 fishermen and 32 boats were detained since 1990.

Abdul Hamid said two AK-44 assault rifles and a grenade launcher was found hidden in a Vietnamese fishing boat last month.

From now onwards all foreign fishing boats will be thoroughly checked, he said at a press conference here Tuesday.

Abdul Hamid said local fishermen should not be worried because the seizures showed that the authorities were always conducting patrols. He reminded local fishermen who came across foreign fishing boats to contact the authorities immediately.

Singapore

Government Denies U.S. Teenager 'Tortured'

BK2004021494 Hong Kong AFP in English 1514 GMT 19 Apr 94

[Text] Singapore, April 19 (AFP)—The Singapore Government Tuesday denied US media reports that an American teenager was tortured and forced to confess to acts of vandalism for which he has been ordered caned by a Singapore court.

The Ministry of Home Affairs said that a probe by a special police unit carried out in October last year found no evidence to substantiate the claim that 18-year-old Michael Fay from Dayton, Ohio, was abused during interrogation.

"The IIS [Internal Investigation Section] investigation revealed no evidence of police abuse," a ministry spokesman said, responding to queries from AFP. The IIS, or Internal Investigation unit, is charged with probing public complaints against the police.

The Home Ministry's denial came in the face of escalating media attention on a US demand that Singapore cancel the court order that Fay be given six strokes of a rattan cane, which could leave him permanently scarred.

"Michael Fay was examined in hospital and also by doctors who had been examining him daily during his remand. No injury was detected," the spokesman said.

The spokesman said that the probe was ordered after the US embassy here lodged a verbal complaint that Fay and two other American boys being similarly investigated for vandalism suffered severe abuse.

The US Embassy was given a full account of the probe's findings but "did not respond nor pursue the matter further," the spokesman said.

THE NEW YORK TIMES said Monday that Fay had insisted to family and friends that he was forced to confess to spray-painting cars during a police beating, claiming that he was innocent.

Fay is serving a four-month jail term at Queenstown Prison while lawyers prepare an appeal for clemency in a bid to get the authorities to drop the painful, potentially skin-splitting lashing.

The appeal is expected to reach Singapore President Ong Teng Cheong on Wednesday.

The spokesman said that Fay's conviction was based on a guilty plea he entered to charges of spray-painting two cars, pelting the vehicles with eggs and keeping stolen property, not on his confession statement.

"In short, the statement had no bearing on Michael Fay's conviction," he said.

The spokesman said that allegations that Fay was being singled out for punishment because the government wanted to send a message to Singaporeans about "decadent Western ways" were also unfounded.

He said that 14 others, among them two foreigners, were caned for vandalism between 1989 and last year.

Another American, a Hongkonger and two Malaysians arrested along with Fay were also facing charges of vandalism.

"It is therefore absurd to say that Michael Fay is being singled out, and then concoct some theory to support this allegation," the spokesman said.

Fay has drawn extensive publicity since his conviction last month, and Singapore has received appeals urging it to spare the rod from President Bill Clinton, several US senators and human rights groups like Amnesty International.

US newspapers have described caning as barbaric, and THE NEW YORK TIMES has urged American multinationals operating here to pressure Singapore to drop the caning.

Cambodia

Public Charges of Thailand's Aiding KR To End
BK2004042494 Bangkok THE NATION in English 20 Apr 94 p A3

[Text] Cambodia has promised to stop publicly accusing Thailand of continuing to aid the Khmer Rouge [KR] according to Sakthip Krairiksh, Thailand's Ambassador to Cambodia.

"(Cambodian Foreign Minister) Prince (Norodom) Sirivudh assured me that Cambodia will no longer speak of such things to the press so that the situation gets better," Sakthip said in a telephone interview.

Sakthip visited Sirivudh on Monday to lodge a formal protest over Cambodia's allegations that Thailand provided refuge to a Khmer Rouge leader and allowed the Maoist faction's troops into its territory.

According to the Ambassador, the six-point protest tells of Thailand's stance on the internal affairs of Cambodia and its dissatisfaction over allegations made by some Cambodian leaders that Thailand assisted the faction in fighting against Phnom Penh government troops.

It also urged Cambodia to take measures to ensure that fighting there will not seriously affect Thais living along the border.

The protest also called for evidence for every allegation made by Cambodia, Sakthip said.

"I informed the (foreign) minister that he could call me any time for explanation and discussion when questions of such kind arose. It is better to solve this sort of problem through diplomatic channels," Sakthip said, adding that the situation could return to normal as soon as the two parties stopped speaking through the media.

Sakthip said that Cambodian Co-Prime Minister Hun Sen had been due to visit Thailand after Cambodia's traditional New Year day (April 13) but said no official contact over the trip had been made between the two governments.

"Therefore, this cannot be called a cancellation since we never had it officially confirmed," he said.

"Besides, we will not be ready to receive Hun Sen since Prime Minister Chuan Likphai will be in Malaysia and Foreign Minister Prasong Sunniri in Burma at the time (of the visit)," he said.

Meanwhile, Defence Minister Gen Wichit Sukmak said the military was ready to protect the country from future attacks by Cambodian government forces. "The Army is prepared to maintain security along the border," he told reporters.

Vijit insisted that Thailand has been sincere in dealing with Cambodia and the Army has followed government policy of not getting involved in the internal affairs of the war-torn country.

He also said that as neighbours the two countries should solve this problem as soon as possible.

Deputy Foreign Minister Surin Phitsuwan yesterday said Thailand and Cambodia are becoming aware that public slanging matches concerning the Khmer Rouge are counter-productive and should stop forthwith.

Surin said civilians of both countries living along the border have to shoulder the effects of misunderstanding between both countries. The effects include fighting spilling over from western Cambodia.

"Thai Ambassador to Phnom Penh Sakthip Krairiksh has submitted a protest note to Prince Norodom Sirivudh, the foreign minister. So far Cambodia has not responded, which indicates that Cambodia doesn't want to prolong the issue," he said.

According to Surin, the country is still waiting for evidence from Cambodia to support Prince Ranariddh's claim that he has photographic evidence proving Thailand's support for the Khmer Rouge.

The dispute should be a good lesson for both countries that criticism made publicly cannot solve bilateral misunderstandings, he said.

An informed source said U.S. Ambassador Designate to Cambodia Charles Twining, recently informed a hearing organized by the Senate Foreign Relations Committee that the Thai government genuinely wants to support the legitimate government of Cambodia.

Complete Liberation of Pailin Reported

BK1904132094 (Clandestine) Voice of the Great National Union Front of Cambodia in Cambodian 1200 GMT 19 Apr 94

["Report on the Complete Liberation of Pailin at 1245 on 19 April 1994"]

[Text] Here is how the move to fully liberate Pailin on 18 Apr and on the morning of 19 April unfolded:

I. First report from the Pailin battlefield on 18 April and 19 April

1. On the night of 18 April, we hit two T-54 tanks of the two-headed government on the (Stoeng Kach) front in Pailin town.
2. On the morning of 19 April, we hit another three T-54 tanks in the middle of (Phnum Sangkat).
3. At 0900 on 19 April, we hit another T-54 tank.
4. We captured a T-54 tank at (O Chra). We used this tank to move forward in our attack against Pailin town.
5. All fronts are moving toward the town.
6. On the morning of 19 April, we hit another T-54 tank on the Bos S'am front. In sum, we destroyed or captured seven tanks on the night of 18 April and on the morning of 19 April.
7. On 18 April, we captured another 24 soldiers of the invading forces who had been routed and got lost in the forest at (O Chra).

II. Second report from the Pailin battlefield on 19 April (continued)

1. At 1000 on 19 April, we seized a 37-mm anti-aircraft gun and three new 22-mm (as heard) artillery pieces. We used these guns against the invading forces.
2. At 0800 on 19 April, the invading forces destroyed two of their artillery pieces and their ammunition on Phnum Yat, causing loud explosions.
3. Their commanders ordered their troops to retreat and to destroy whatever they could not take with them.
4. Fighting was still raging in Pailin town.

III. Third battle report from the Pailin battlefield on 19 April (continued)

1. At 1050 on 19 April, the invading forces fled along the road east of Pailin town, on the 21st parallel, toward Phnum Veng in the east.

2. Our forces on all fronts were moving toward Pailin town.

IV. Fourth battle report from the Pailin battlefield on 19 April (continued)

1. At 1000 on 19 April, we captured another tank and were moving toward Pailin town.
2. Multiple rockets batteries and artillery pieces of the two-headed government were pulled back and massed together to the west of Phnum Veng.
3. Hul Savoan and Van Sophat were asking for a helicopter to pick them up from Vat Kaong Kang monastery. However, the helicopter dared not land.

V. Fifth battle report from the Pailin battlefield on 19 April (continued)

1. At 0830, Hul Savoan, commander of the 5th Military Region, fled from Pailin toward (O Tavau). At 1100, Hul Savoan reached (O Tavau); we laid an ambush to destroy him.

2. At 1100 we were mopping up everywhere in the town's suburbs and were successively moving toward the town.

VI. Sixth report from the Pailin battlefield on 19 April (continued)

1. At 1245 all fronts of our forces joined hands in Pailin town.
2. Troops of the invading forces, apart from those killed and wounded, fled to the east. They clashed with our forces there; a number of them were killed or wounded. We seized another three tanks.

3. We continued to attack and mop up toward the east.

VII. Report on the complete liberation of Pailin at 1245 on 19 April

1. At 1245, we completely liberated Pailin.
2. We captured three more tanks in Pailin town. Altogether, since the morning, we had captured five tanks.

Note: We captured five T-54 tanks on the morning of 19 April in Pailin town.

3. We seized two 37-mm anti-aircraft guns, three 122-mm artillery pieces, one 122-mm D-30 gun, and a 130-mm gun.

4. We are moving toward Treng.

After completely liberating Pailin we continue to advance toward the east to mop up the invading forces.

[Repeat VII above]

VIII. Report from the Pailin battlefield on 19 April (continued)

1. At 1345, we captured three T-54 tanks still in good condition at Phnum Deah Kramom.

2. In sum, since the morning we have seized eight tanks. We are continuing these efforts.

Further on KR Spokesman's Remarks on Pailin
BK1904130094 Hong Kong AFP in English 1221 GMT 19 Apr 94

[By Kevin Barrington]

[Text] Phnom Penh, April 19 (AFP)—A force of three thousand Khmer Rouge [KR] guerrillas stormed back into the northwest town of Pailin on Tuesday, a month after losing the stronghold to government troops, a spokesman for the radical faction said.

"We took our base back at 12:45 P.M., captured eight government tanks in good condition and destroyed seven," the Khmer Rouge spokesman in the capital told AFP.

Casualty figures were not yet confirmed, he said.

The spokesman said the 3,000 guerrillas attacked and forced back some 7,000 government troops.

"I am very excited to hear we can get back our houses," he said.

The Khmer Rouge need to clear mines around the town, "then we can bring back the people who lived there before," the spokesman said.

Co-Defence Minister Tie Banh, speaking from Battambang, admitted that the Khmer Rouge had recaptured part of Pailin.

"But remember Pailin is a very big place," he said. "Some of our troops are countering the attack and there is fighting going on there."

Tie Banh said the government had only six tanks in operation at Pailin and questioned how the guerrillas could talk about 15 tanks.

Other military officials said the situation in Pailin was not yet clear.

"We should wait until tomorrow," one general said.

"The nature of military (operations) is like that, there is pushing up and down," he said. Co-premier Hun Sen also went to Battambang Province Tuesday, a government official said.

The region's military headquarters is based in the city of Battambang, around 80 kilometers (50 miles) east of Pailin.

Military officials, confirmed there was shelling in Pailin early Tuesday and increased fighting in the area was been reported during the past week.

A Western diplomat, however, cautioned there was "no hard evidence" to confirm the fall of Pailin.

"The government was pouring all sorts of resources into the area. So even if they were knocked out of Pailin town, they could be in a good position to take it back," the diplomat said.

The government forces captured Pailin March 19 and the Khmer Rouge, rather than face them in a conventional battle, retreated from the town and melted into the hills to the west along the Thai border.

Generals said the capture of the resource-rich area was a major blow to the notorious guerrilla faction opposing the government that emerged from the UN-sponsored elections last May.

The Khmer Rouge financed their organisation by selling gem-mining and logging concessions, primarily to Thai business consortia, many of which were reported to have links with the Thai military.

The government commanders said at the time that if they could not hold Pailin "they did not deserve to be called the Royal Cambodian Armed Forces."

The commanders swore that they would not let Pailin suffer the same fate as Anlung Veng, another major guerrilla base which the government forces seized—only to be routed several weeks later when the guerrillas launched a major counter-attack.

King Norodom Sihanouk expressed his support for the government's seizure of Pailin, and described the offensive as "legitimate, unavoidable and most laudable."

But the king warned the victory could be a "double-edged sword" and the army could be entering a situation akin to Dien Bien Phu, where a static French force fell to a nimble force of Vietnamese guerrillas.

If the guerrillas recaptured Pailin, it would seriously undermine government's and the army's credibility and morale and "hypothetically could threaten the very future of our new regime," the king said.

Western military analysts had predicted that the guerrillas might try to recapture their base when the rainy season started in May-June.

The rains would turn the already difficult supply routes into almost impassable, treacherous trails of mud, they said.

Sen Sann Opts for Peaceful Solution for KR

BK1504133694 Phnom Penh REAKSMEI

KAMPUCHEA in Cambodian 13-17 Apr 94 p 12

[Text] Recently Samdech Son Sann, dean of the National Assembly, issued a four-point statement on behalf of the Buddhist Liberal Democratic Party (BLDP) affirming his party's position and appealing to all parties with seats in the National Assembly to work together for a solution to the Khmer Rouge problem.

This statement was made as His Majesty King Norodom Sihanouk and his queen were returning to the country and after government forces had captured the Khmer Rouge's important region of Pailin and other positions along the western border.

Samdech Son Sann gave the following as reason: "The conflict in Cambodia has caused untold suffering to the people. Of all the major problems that they have faced over the past two decades, the serious Khmer Rouge problem is yet to be solved."

In point one, Samdech Son Sann explained that "the settlement of the Khmer Rouge problem must be achieved through peaceful means..." because any military solution would only bring tragedies and deaths to the people and cause shortages of food, medicine, and so on.

Samdech Son Sann said: "We believe that solving the Khmer Rouge problem militarily can only delay Cambodia's rehabilitation and reconstruction. It can only frighten away foreign investments to neighboring countries." He pointed out the eventuality that "such an action would instead help the neighboring countries suck up all the economic advantages and would plunge Cambodia into a state of insecurity."

In the second point of his statement, Samdech Son Sann proposed that to solve the Khmer Rouge problem and put an end to the tragedies, "the Royal Government and all parties in the National Assembly must make sacrifices and concessions."

Samdech Son Sann urged the parties to consider not just their own interests but also those of the nation and to reconcile with one another in accordance with the peace proposal of King Norodom Sihanouk, the architect of national reconciliation.

Samdech Son Sann stated: "The Constitution is the work of the National Assembly. Therefore, the National Assembly has the right to amend it" for the sake of national unity and national concord. He made this remark in reference to certain provisions in the Constitution that do not agree with the king's proposal to give cabinet positions to some persons within the Khmer Rouge leadership.

In the third point of the statement Samdech Son Sann declared on behalf of the BLDP: "The party supports the king's five-point proposal made on 23 November 1993"

and "we appeal to the Royal Government to agree to solve the Khmer Rouge problem on the basis of this five-point proposal."

In the fourth point of the statement Samdech Son Sann also voiced support for the king's communique dated 7 March 1994 concerning the dangerous consequences of a war between the Khmer Royal Armed Forces and the forces of the Khmer Rouge. He went on to say: "We would like to emphasize that without national reconciliation there can be no peace, there can be no reconstruction, and the question of territorial integrity cannot be settled."

Some analysts noted that the timing of Samdech Son Sann's appeal seems to be wrong because, first of all, the Royal Government has already controlled the Khmer Rouge areas at Anlung Veng and Pailin, thus bringing changes to the situation although the door to negotiations is said to remain open.

They think that there is now a tendency to use military means rather than talks. On the chessboard, the government side has the upper hand as it is winning one Khmer Rouge "pawn" after another, and it is even on the verge of checkmating the Khmer Rouge "king."

Indonesia

Suharto Meets Iraqi Envoy, Pledges Support

JN1904143694 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1250 GMT 19 Apr 94

[Text] Jakarta, 19 Apr (INA)—Muhammad Sa'id al-Sahhaf, personal envoy of His Excellency President Saddam Husayn and foreign minister, has relayed a message from his excellency the president to Indonesian President Suharto on recent developments in the relationship between Iraq and the UN Security Council, as well as on bilateral ties.

The message was conveyed during a meeting in Jakarta today between President Suharto and Muhammad Sa'id al-Sahhaf. During the meeting, the foreign minister said Iraq has honored all its commitments. Consequently, the UN Security Council must fulfill its commitments per Paragraph 22 of Resolution 687 by lifting the economic embargo clamped on the Iraqi people.

For his part, President Suharto said he was happy to meet a personal envoy of His Excellency President Saddam Husayn. He said: It is only natural for Indonesia to play a significant role in promoting the just Iraqi demand to lift the unfair embargo clamped on it.

President Suharto said Indonesia's role in this is dictated by the strong bilateral ties and by the fact that Indonesia is the current chairman of the Nonaligned Movement [NAM]. Indonesia can play this role through its efforts at the NAM Coordination Bureau, the NAM Liaison Office in New York, and the NAM group at the UN Security Council, President Suharto said.

At the end of the meeting with the Indonesian president, the foreign minister and his Indonesian counterpart Ali Alatas held a news conference in a Presidential Palace hall.

Leaders Say Ties With Japan Remain Strong

BK2004012894 Jakarta THE JAKARTA POST in English 11 Apr 94 p 1

[Text] Jakarta (JP)—President Suharto says it is unlikely that the resignation of Japanese Prime Minister Morihiro Hosokawa, after only eight months in power, will affect the strong relations between the two countries.

Minister/State Secretary Mardiono told reporters on Saturday that the President viewed Hosokawa's resignation as relating solely to the domestic affairs of Japan and that it should not have any repercussions on bilateral ties with Indonesia.

Suharto, according to Mardiono, expressed his wish that Japan would soon overcome its domestic political problems and elect a new prime minister.

"The leadership change in Japan is not going to affect the politics and government of that country," Mardiono said, echoing the President.

Minister of Foreign Affairs Ali Alatas, also voicing confidence that Indonesian-Japanese ties will remain unaffected, stressed on Saturday that it is only the prime minister who has resigned, and that the government will remain.

Japan is Indonesia's main trading partner and also its largest source of foreign aid.

The two countries in recent years have tried to expand their bilateral ties to include other aspects, most notably culture.

Observers To Be Sent to South African Elections

BK1904032294 Jakarta Radio Republik Indonesia Network in Indonesian 0000 GMT 19 Apr 94

[Text] Indonesia will send 11 observers to the multiracial elections in South Africa scheduled for 26-27 April. A press release issued by the Foreign Affairs Department said the team of observers, who will represent the Indonesian Government and chairman of the Nonaligned Movement, is to leave Jakarta today and will stay in South Africa until 3 May.

The 11 observers, who will serve under the auspices of a UN commission to monitor the South African elections, consist of nine officials from Jakarta, one from the Indonesian Permanent Representative Office to the United Nations in New York, and one from the Indonesian Embassy in Harare. The team will join others from the European Community, the Commonwealth, the Organization of African Unity, and other countries.

Military Officer Warns of Communist Revival

BK1904130594 Jakarta THE JAKARTA POST in English 14 Apr 94 p 2

[Text] Jakarta (JP)—The Soviet block in Eastern Europe may have collapsed but according to a senior Army officer, Indonesia must be vigilant against a communist revival.

"Communism remains a latent danger in Indonesia now and in the future," Brigadier General Agum Gumelar, the chief of the Army's elite force Kopassus [Special Forces Command], told reporters yesterday.

"Communism will return if the condition of society becomes chaotic," Agum said during a rare press conference given by him at the command's headquarters in Cijantung, East Jakarta, in connection with Kopassus' upcoming 42nd anniversary.

The Indonesian Communist Party (PKI) has been outlawed since 1966.

Kopassus spearheaded the Army's move to quash the communist forces immediately after the failed coup attempt by PKI in 1965.

The highly disciplined force has also been prominent in most major military operations in Indonesia, including putting down separatist rebellions in Aceh, East Timor and Irian Jaya.

Agum said leftist and rightist elements are constantly trying to replace the political system in Indonesia which has been painstakingly built since 1966, by criticizing and attacking the system at every opportune moment.

He felt that they immediately blame the system for any mishaps, adding that the right elements would also exploit religious issues to further their cause.

He also warned against other elements, particularly from Western-educated liberal-minded intellectuals, who constantly demand political and economic reforms.

"They focus on labor and land conflicts to attack the government. Such movements, if not controlled, will worsen the social, political and economic conditions," he said.

He accused non-governmental organizations [NGOs] of using such issues as democratization, political openness, environmental protection and human rights to discredit the government and the Armed Forces (ABRI).

"We know many NGOs have become vocal, both at home and overseas, on human rights and environmental issues in their efforts to discredit the government and ABRI. They are also against the constitution and Pancasila [The ideological basis of the Indonesian state]," he said.

"What do Princen and Adnan Buyung Nasution really hope to achieve by advocating the human rights of

criminals?" he asked, referring two of Indonesia's most outspoken human rights campaigners. "Tell me which is more important. Protecting the human rights of criminals or those of the good guys?" He said ABRI and the government were open to criticism, provided they were aired with the intention to help the government improve the people welfare and not to replace the system.

"What would become of this nation if there was a revolution to overturn the Pancasila democracy?" he asked. "We will go back to square one after people have been waiting for a long time to enjoy a good standard of living."

Despite many shortcomings and weaknesses, people should give credit to the present government for improving their welfare, he said.

Agriculture Minister on 1994 Rice Production

BK1904122794 Jakarta ANTARA in English 0930 GMT 19 Apr 94

[Text] Jakarta, 19 Apr (ANTARA)—Minister for Agriculture Syarifudin Baharuyah has said that he is confident the national rice production in 1994 will be the same as last year's, he told journalists here Monday.

He said that in anticipation of floods and rice field pests, the Pest Control Agency of the agricultural mass guidance (BIMAS) have already made necessary control measures in production centers of the country.

Activities to safeguard production in 1994 planting season include intensive planting, quality improvement, use of the urea pills and the proper channelling of the farmers business loans (kut).

Syarifudin said that the forecast made by the Central Bureau of Statistics for 1994 rice production will be 8 million tons of milled dry and unskulled paddy (gkg) for over 10.7 ha of harvest area, actually the same as last year's rice production.

He noted, however, that the long drawn-out rainy season has led the late planting season and difficulties for farmers to harvest rice of superior quality.

ANTARA Says Devaluation of Rupiah Unlikely

BK1904083794 Jakarta ANTARA in English 0647 GMT 19 Apr 94

[Text] Jakarta, Apr 19 (ANTARA)—Concern over a drastic drop in the rupiah's value against the US dollar is unfounded, head of money market and checking account affairs at the Central Bank, Bank Indonesia, Dahlan Setialaksana, said to journalists here Monday. "Therefore, the rush to purchase US dollars in large quantities is only an act of speculation spurred by irresponsible rumours," he said.

Economic observers have said that 500 million US dollars worth of rupiahs have been exchanged into US

currency recently due to a statement made by a government official saying that although the rupiah will not be devalued, its depreciation will accelerate to 6 percent in 1994/95 as against the expected 3 to 4 percent.

In previous years, the depreciation of the rupiah against the US dollar never rose above 6 percent, in 1990 the depreciation was 5.9 percent, in 1991 4.8 percent, in 1992 3.5 percent and in 1993 3.8 percent.

Setialaksana, who is now in charge of the development of the capital market at the Ministry of Finance, said that both domestically and overseas the rupiah's exchange rate against the US dollar has been stable and is likely to remain so.

He also pointed out that the domestic real interest rate is stable in comparison with countries like the United States, Western Europe and Japan, ruling out the likelihood of capital flight overseas.

It is expected that declining oil prices will not cause an accelerated depreciation of the rupiah against the US dollar, he said.

"The role of oil in our state's budget is only 30 percent, so if the oil prices drop the effect is insignificant, unlike in 1986 when the role of oil in the state's budget reached 80 percent," he said.

Regarding export value, he said that although the percentage dropped, the nominal value increased.

In 1992 export value grew by 23 billion US dollars, an increase of 28 percent over 1991, and in 1993 it rose by 28 billion US dollars, up by 20 percent over 1992.

The government has also successfully cut down on imports which grew by 8 percent in 1992 and by only 7 percent in 1993.

"Our foreign exchange reserves are sufficient for 5 months worth of imports, so there is no reason for the value of the rupiah to be depreciated against US dollar at present," he added.

Setialaksana attributed the present purchase of large quantities of US dollars to the current hajj pilgrimage.

"We have some 157,000 hajj pilgrims. If one hajj pilgrim requires 1,000 US dollars, then the quantities of US dollar purchases will certainly be big," he said.

Philippines

U.S. Request on Military's Status Annoys Manila

BK2004112394 Manila BUSINESS WORLD in English 13 Apr 94 p 12

[Text] Government yesterday expressed "serious concern" over Washington's request to have its military personnel in the country agranted diplomatic status.

Foreign Affairs Undersecretary Rodolfo Severino yesterday confirmed Washington's request, adding that "this issue are already being discussed at the lower levels."

Mr. Severino said government is "exploring all the possibilities" with regard to the request although he declined to expound further. "We" talk to you about it when the right time comes," he said.

The request was made in view of the joint Philippines-United States Balikatan [Shoulder to Shoulder] exercises in which American military personnel will be participating. The Balikatan is scheduled to be held here sometime this year.

The request was said to be related to government's disregarding the status of forces agreement—where rules regarding the safety of American military personnel in the country are included—following the abolition of the bases treaty. Sources said granting diplomatic status to American military personnel will have serious political consequences.

U.S. Interests in South China Sea Analyzed

BK2004055094 Quezon City MALAYA in English 11
Apr 94 p 5

[Article by Ellen Tordesillas: "Cooperation Not Confrontation"]

[Text] One of the topics to be discussed in the third national security meeting under the Ramos administration on Thursday is the president's proposal to demilitarize the South China Sea made during his visit to Vietnam two weeks ago.

The president's Spratly initiative has activated the South China Sea problem in a positive way. From merely a pledge of all claimants to solve the conflict in a peaceful manner, the president challenged all claimant states and other Southeast Asian nations to jointly study the possible demilitarization of the area and a freeze on all destabilizing activities related to the Spratly conflict.

Although all claimant countries have been a model of rationality, at the back of everybody's mind is the fear that something might spark a violent confrontation that will make the Spratlys the "flashpoint" that it has been described by the region's military and political analysts.

Of the 104 islands in the Spratlys covering a stretch of some 1,000 kilometers, 45 are occupied by the claimants' armed forces. Vietnam occupies 25, China eight; Philippines eight; Malaysia three, and Taiwan, one (Itu Abe, the largest island and confirmed to contain all deposits).

The oil-rich, tiny kingdom of Brunei is the only claimant that does not maintain a military presence in the Spratlys because the island it is claiming, the Luisa Reef, is nearly completely submerged at high tide.

Vietnam, which knows more than anybody else the destructive effect of engaging in hostilities with other countries, has responded positively to the proposal of President Ramos.

China, whom everybody is wary about because of reports of its military buildup in the area, merely reiterated its line to the effect that although Chinese sovereignty over the whole South China Sea is a fact and not a matter of negotiations, they are willing to talk about joint projects.

The question in many people's mind is: in case of hostilities in the Spratlys, will the self-proclaimed policeman of the world, the United States, come in?

Vietnamese officials said there's very little at stake for the United States in Southeast Asia for the United States to warrant its involvement in hostilities in South China Sea.

Philippine officials, however, think otherwise.

A paper presented in 1990 by Jorge R. Coquia, former legal adviser of the Department of Foreign Affairs, in the first workshop in the management of conflict in the South China Sea held in Bali, pointed out: "In the case of the United States, the South China Sea is one of the four alternate eastbound routes used by tankers sailing for the West Coast from the U.S. from the Persian Gulf. [as published] The South China Sea region is the nexus for energy material transportation between the Middle East and East Asia and the United States. More than 90 per cent of Japan's oil imports move through this region as does most of the oil supply of the Republic of Korea."

The Coquia paper further said: "A break in the subtle chain of some two hundred tankers en route would mean a fatal clot in Japan's 'life blood.' The oil embargo of 1973-1974 revealed Japan's vulnerability and its dependence on the lanes in the South China Sea."

Despite categorical statements from U.S. officials that conflict in the Spratlys is not covered by the Mutual Defense Treaty (MDT) which binds both parties to come to each other's help in case of an armed attack in any of the areas of either party, an NSC [National Security Council] official believes that the United States can be enticed to get involved if its interests in the region is threatened.

That's why, the official said, it is best to let the MDT remain ambiguous as far as U.S. commitment to the defense of the Philippines is concerned.

He said ambiguity gives room for "creative imagination."

The official said the MDT could provide the United States an excuse to intervene militarily in a South China Sea conflict, in case the China threat becomes real.

The official also said unlike during the Gulf War when the United States had to get U.N. approval to intervene

in the Iraq-Kuwait conflict, the U.S. can invoke the MDT to intervene in a Spratly hostilities.

But that is one of the extreme scenarios. The more attractive one is the president's call for demilitarization and freeze to all destabilizing activities activists in the area with the end in view of transforming the South China Sea "from the waters of contention to an area of cooperation."

Ramos Signs Multiple Entry Visas for Chinese

*BK2004085994 Manila BUSINESS WORLD in English
12 Apr 94 p 12*

[Excerpt] Chinese nationals will now find it easier to enter the country as President Ramos yesterday granted them easier access to multiple entry visas.

Executive Order 168 authorizes the issuance of multiple entry visas valid for six months to Chinese nationals coming to the Philippines for business or pleasure.

Under the law, Chinese nationals are defined as persons who hold passports from the People's Republic of China, Taiwan, Hong Kong and Macao.

The president said granting this type of visa to Chinese nationals is in line with government's policy to attract and promote trade, investment and tourism as instruments of the country's economic growth and national development.

The new law allows the issuance of multi-entry visas to Chinese nationals by Philippine Foreign Service establishments without prior authorization from the DFA [Department of Foreign Affairs], provided the applicant meets the following requirement: —duly accomplished visa application form;

- passport valid for six months beyond the period of authorized stay in the Philippines;
- valid entry visa to the next port of destination or reentry to the country of origin;
- confirmed return or onward package ticket; and,
- proof of bona fide status as tourist or businessman.

The visa fees are \$100 for a multiple entry visa valid for six months; \$50 for multiple entry visas valid for three months and \$25 for single entry visas valid for three months. [passage omitted]

New Initiatives To Expedite AFTA Implementation

*BK1904133394 Manila BUSINESS WORLD in English
7 Apr 94 p 2*

[Text] New initiatives to accelerate the implementation of the ASEAN Free Trade Area (AFTA) were pushed in the recent ASEAN Chamber of Commerce and Industry (ASEAN-CCI) series of meetings in Brunei.

The AFTA, which took effect last 1 January, requires the six ASEAN countries to reduce intra-regional tariffs on all manufactured goods to between 0 percent to 5 percent

within 15 years through the Common Effective Preferential Tariff (CEPT) scheme.

Its primary objective is to create a single ASEAN market of 330 million people and a combined GNP exceeding \$300 billion.

In the said meetings, it was proposed that the harmonization of tariff codes be accelerated with priority accorded to products enjoying high volume of intra-ASEAN trade and products that fall under the 15 fast-track product groups in the Common Effective Preferential Tariff (CEPT) agreement. Product groups under the fast-track program are vegetable oil, cement, chemicals, pharmaceuticals, fertilizers, plastic, rubber products, pulp, leather products, textiles, ceramic and glass products, gems and jewelry, copper cathodes, electronics, wooden and rattan furniture.

Other proposals adopted by the council are: —to improve the frequency and availability of shipping between ASEAN countries;

- identify, through regional industry clubs, industry specific non-tariff barriers (NTBs) that should be eliminated;
- upgrade the efficiency of trade procedures including the possibility of implementing an electronic data interchange;
- facilitate product certification and acceptance;
- raise the capability of the services sector such as banking, insurance, and telecommunications to support trade; and,
- address the issue concerning developments in global trade such as the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade.

Other recommendations are being pushed by working groups of ASEAN-CCI.

These include:

- the establishment of joint promotion of ASEAN agricultural products;
- the development of infrastructure such as the establishment of a pan-ASEAN land bridge;
- pursuing open skies policy; and,
- the development of ASEAN optic fiber network and the expansion of cellular phone network beyond country borders.

Romulo To Strengthen Trade Ties With Burma

*BK2004032794 Manila BUSINESS WORLD in English
8 Apr 94 p 12*

[Text] Foreign Affairs Secretary Roberto Romulo yesterday said that a "growing interest" in expanding links between the Philippines and Myanmar (formerly Burma) should be explored by encouraging an intensified exchange of private sector representatives from both countries.

"There is an enormous potential still waiting to be tapped in this area," Mr. Romulo said during a meeting with officials of the ruling State Law and Order Restoration Council (SLORC).

He pointed out private sector representatives are best positioned to develop meaningful cooperation among themselves in order to pave the way for more significant economic ties between Manila and Rangoon.

"Let me add that in my position, I will do my best to stimulate more trade and business contacts for the mutual benefits of our two countries," he said.

Mr. Romulo told SLORC officials government is "encouraged by the moves taken by Myanmar to work closely with ASEAN (Association of Southeast Asian Nations) and individual ASEAN (members), in the spirit of good neighborliness and friendship."

He likewise assured the Burmese government of Manila's continued support for the one-Southeast Asia concept which will include the six ASEAN states of Brunei, Indonesia, Malaysia, the Philippines, Singapore, and Thailand plus Myanmar and the three Indo-Chinese states of Vietnam, Cambodia, and Laos.

"You may be assured that in every forum, the Philippines has always supported the concept of one Southeast Asia which will no longer be divided by ideological boundaries of the Cold War, but working together towards greater cooperation for the common welfare of all the peoples of the Southeast Asian region," he said.

He noted ASEAN at the moment is facing the "exciting challenge" of enhancing regional cooperation among its members and its dialogue partners.

"In this effort, we more than welcome the valuable contributions that Myanmar can make in the interest of promoting regional peace, progress and harmony. Let us join hands and forge a more dynamic and progressive Southeast Asia," he said.

Reportage on Rebels' Activities Continues

MNLF Continues To Recruit New Members

BK1804115694 Quezon City GMA-7 Radio-Television Arts Network in Tagalog 0930 GMT 18 Apr 94

[Text] The Moro National Liberation Front (MNLF) continues to recruit and train new members despite the ongoing peace talks. Army Chief Superintendent Lasingning Magumang said that if this is true, it will not affect the peace talks.

The MNLF is reportedly planning to join the 9 May village elections and field candidates in Tawi-tawi.

Communists Report Gains in Quezon

BK1904092494 Manila MANILA BULLETIN in English 6 Apr 94 p 12

[Text] Baler, Aurora—The New People's Army (NPA) in North Quezon province claimed here yesterday that it has broken several campaigns by the Armed Forces of the Philippines (AFP) to annihilate it, expanding its forces and establishing units and mass organizations in island towns and the upper municipalities of this province.

The rebel army however was silent on the gunslaying Sunday of one of its former commander, Leopoldo Mabilangan alias Comrade Hector, formerly head of the Mt. Banahaw Command in Quezon-Batangas area, and a government surrenderer.

In a fax statement sent to the MANILA BULLETIN, Labrador Luminoso, spokesman of the NPA command in Northern Quezon province, said that the NPA gains started in the early 1980's and engaged the military in several confrontations.

They claimed that the NPA North Quezon were supported by 5,000 organized masses in the armed struggle.

Last year, he said that the NPA North Quezon was able to "punish enemy agents, bandits, and military operatives engaged in espionage and counter-insurgency operations."

Luminoso also said that people who are using the NPA's name to promote their criminal activities were likewise arrested and told to reform under pain of severe punishment.

The NPA leader attributed the people's army gains after it launched a rectification campaign to strengthen its ties with the masses and organize them for revolutionary work in response to the call of the Central Committee of the Communist Party of the Philippines.

The NPA Quezon, he said, also launched campaigns to treat thousands of people on Pollilo island and the coastal town of General Nakar and firmed up its relations with thousands more scattered in remote barangays [villages] of the island town and the nearby municipalities.

Today, Luminoso said, the group is vigorously campaigning to stop illegal logging in its jurisdiction. Pollilo, he said, is noted to be a shipment point for illegally cut logs bound for Japan and Taiwan.

NPA Leader Slaying Suspends Talks With Rebels

BK2004062094 Manila BUSINESS WORLD in English 11 Apr 94 p 14

[By Sandra S. Aguinaldo]

[Text] Government will temporarily suspend talks with the National Democratic Front (NDF) if hostilities

within the communist party are not put to an end, a government negotiator said yesterday.

The decision was reportedly made after the New People's Army (NPA) claimed responsibility for the death of former leader Leopoldo Mabilangan and after Luis Jalandoni NDF representative to the talks and vice-chairman for international affairs, failed to condemn the killing which was claimed by the NPA [New People's Army] Melito Glor Command.

The negotiator, who requested anonymity, said the government panel considered the killing of Mr. Mabilangan as a "step backward" for the peace process.

In a statement, [former] Ambassador Howard Dec, chairman of the government panel traced Mr. Mabilangan's death to the rift within the communist movement and appealed to all factions "to allow the spirit of The Hague Declaration to prevail within their own movement and to commit themselves to a just and peaceful resolution of the armed conflict."

The government negotiator said the panel believes violence within the movement will affect the peace process in a negative manner.

Another source disclosed the strong possibility the NDF will further delay the resumption of the second round of exploratory talks with government. The NDF's attempt to consolidate its forces in the past had become even more impossible with the death of the NPA Banahaw Command's former leader, he said, adding the killing had also dampened the image of the movement, while the government benefited from it.

He added, however, that the incident might affect the success of the government's amnesty program. "The NPA might have finished Comrade Hector off in order to show others who are planning to avail of the amnesty what the NPA can do to them," he said.

Meanwhile, President Ramos said Mr. Mabilangan's killers are not qualified to apply for the government's amnesty program as the act was plain "murder" and not done in furtherance of a political goal.

Satur Ocampo, former chief NDF spokesman, defended the military wing of the Communist Party of the Philippines, saying the Melito Glor Command, which operates in Southern Tagalog and is headed by Gregorio "Comrade Roger" Rosal, had found Comrade Hector guilty of crimes punishable by death.

The command has the right to dispense justice to the crimes he committed against many people and the Ramos administration has failed in this respect," he said.

Mr. Ocampo added the "people's court" has evidence of his involvement in activities against the CPP, showing he was killed in order to preserve the movement.

Mr. Ocampo said he was not surprised by the president's pronouncement because "it has been a policy of government to file common criminal charges to our brothers in the movement, rather than charge them for political offenses. Government has made members of the CPP suffer multiple layers of injustice because of this practice."

He also revealed the decision of the "people's court" who found Mabilangan guilty of crimes such as involvement in kidnapping and other "anti-revolutionary activities" will be reviewed by a higher court.

Mr. Ocampo said a CPP national court will be tasked to study the decision of the NPA Southern Tagalog Regional Command.

"We will see to it that all the requirements for death penalty were fulfilled. The leadership will check if the order came with authority and if there was a failure in implementation," Mr. Ocampo said.

Mabilangan's punishment will also have to be within the standards of the International Humanitarian Law, he said.

"The NDF is a responsible political organization. We will not tolerate injustice in our movement," he said.

Government, MNLF Sign Cease-Fire Guidelines
BK2004100894 Manila THE MANILA CHRONICLE
in English 8 - 94 p 2

[Text] Zamboanga City—Government and Moro National Liberation Front (MNLF) peace panel officials formally signed late last night the implementing guidelines for the interim cease-fire agreement between their combatant forces.

Principal signatories to the accord were Ambassador Manuel T. Yan, chairman of the government peace panel, and MNLF Chairman Nur Misuari.

Co-signatories to the document were Indonesian Ambassadors Pieter Damanik and Mohammed Mohsin, representing the Ministerial Observers Committee of the Organization of Islamic Conference.

The peace talks will continue at the Orchids Hotel here today.

Thailand

Envoy Says Israel Welcomes Thai Workers
BK2004042994 Bangkok THE NATION in English 20
Apr 94 p A2

[Text] Skilled Thai workers are welcome in Israel, Israeli Ambassador to Thailand 'Uzi Manor said yesterday, as part of an Israeli government campaign to recruit an international workforce to replace Palestinian workers.

"We [Israel] would be glad to have more Thai workers in our country," the ambassador told *The Nation* during a telephone interview.

According to the ambassador Israel has experience with Thai workers and considers them skilled and reliable.

Earlier this month Israel said it was looking for more than 20,000 foreigners to work in place of Palestinian workers, following attacks by militant Palestinians which left 8 Israelis dead and 50 wounded in a 24 hour period.

Under a proposal put to the Israeli cabinet, some 15,000 foreign construction workers, and 3,250 to be employed in the agricultural sector would join 3,000 others whose arrival has already been scheduled.

The occupied territories, inhabited largely by Palestinians, have been officially sealed since the end of March 1993 following a wave of killings, but the restrictions were greatly relaxed in the months before the Hebron massacre.

Authorities tightened the ban after the February 25 massacre, in which 30 Arab worshippers were gunned down by a Jewish settler, in a bid to prevent revenge attacks.

Before the March, 1993 ban 100,000 Palestinians worked in Israel, many in farming and construction.

The total ban on Palestinians entering Israel is believed to throw thousands out of work.

The ambassador said his country would welcome skilled workers from any nation.

Meanwhile, a senior Foreign Ministry official hailed the Israel decision as good for Thai workers.

He said security would have to be taken into consideration before sending Thais there, however.

"First, we have to know where they (the workers) will be sent, and if these areas are safe enough for our people," the anonymous official said.

He said Thailand would not risk the safety of Thai labourers by allowing them to work in areas considered insecure.

"We don't want Thai workers to be kept hostage should anything happen there," he told *The Nation*.

Cabinet Approves Oil Venture With Malaysia

BK2004101294 Bangkok Radio Thailand Network in English 0000 GMT 20 Apr 94

[Text] The cabinet during its meeting yesterday approved a draft protocol on the Malaysia-Thailand joint authority which was earlier worked out by Thai and Malaysian governments. The protocol is designed to solve the problems concerning petroleum concessions in the joint development area lying on both countries'

territorial claims in the South China Sea. The delegations of both countries late last month held talks on the avoidance of double taxation in Kuala Lumpur. They agreed that technical fees and petroleum income tax collected by both countries be reduced by half. The protocol will be part of the agreement on the avoidance of double taxation between Thailand and Malaysia. The two countries to equally share benefits reaped from the joint development area. They are expected to sign an agreement to start their petroleum exploration in the area this week when Prime Minister Chuan Liphai visits Malaysia.

Prime Minister Chuan Not To Dissolve House

BK1904065894 Bangkok Radio Thailand Network in English 0000 GMT 19 Apr 94

[Text] Prime Minister Chuan Likphai reaffirms that he will not dissolve the House of Representatives nor to withdraw the seven draft constitutional amendments. Prime Minister Chuan stated his firm position in his speech to the annual meeting of the Democrat Party, of which he is the leader, at the Emerald Hotel in Bangkok. While dismissing the idea of house dissolution, the prime minister says he does not believe a military coup will be resorted to for the solving of political problems. However, Prime Minister Chuan says he and his government will refrain from instigating a military coup, providing no conditions for anyone to stage a coup. He stresses that his government has clear policies and has been seriously implementing them with definite aims of suppressing corruption and promoting democracy in the country.

He also confirms that the remaining seven draft amendments to the constitution will not be withdrawn from the parliament.

Wimon Vows Harsh Response to Cambodians

BK2004040194 Bangkok THE NATION in English 20 Apr 94 p 1

[Text] Prime Minister Chuan Likphai threw strong support behind the Thai military yesterday in its increasingly angry response to Cambodian allegations that Thai soldiers are still backing the Khmer Rouge.

Army Commander in Chief Gen Wimon Wongwanit yesterday accused Cambodian leaders of lying and threatened to reduce humanitarian assistance for Cambodia if Phnom Penh continues to accuse Thailand of supporting the radical faction.

The Army chief said if pushed to the limit, Thailand may have to respond with "an eye for an eye... there are limits to our patience."

Gen Wimon charged that a "third country" was behind the smear campaign against Thailand. "A third country is trying to drive a wedge between Thailand and Cambodia," he said, without naming names.

Prime Minister Chuan said in a separate interview it was necessary for Thailand to launch a diplomatic offensive against Cambodia.

"We are forced to hit back at Cambodia because we have to clear ourselves of such allegations. Thailand's image has been badly damaged," Chuan said.

He also said there might be a misunderstanding on the part of Phnom Penh. He noted that Cambodian soldiers who lost battles against the Khmer Rouge might put the blame on Thailand and unaware Phnom Penh leaders subsequently picked up the accusations.

"It may be that Cambodian leaders are listening to their army too much. The government's troops have been unsuccessful in suppressing the Khmer Rouge and have then accused others [Thailand] of helping the faction," he said.

"It's the government's policy to allow the Foreign Ministry and other agencies involved [in Cambodian affairs] to explain facts to the international community."

Gen Wimon said Cambodian leaders' unsubstantiated claims that Thailand still supported the Khmer Rouge had damaged Thailand's reputation. "The damage was much more severe than that caused by a bomb," he said.

First Prime Minister Norodom Ranariddh claimed the Khmer Rouge had been allowed to use Thailand as a sanctuary during the battle for the Cambodian town of Pailin. He also threatened to attack Khmer Rouge tanks even if they were on Thai territory.

Reiterating the Army's denial that it still assists the Khmer Rouge, Gen Wimon said the Cambodians lied when they claimed there were foreign tanks inside Thailand. "It (the accusation) is an insult to Thailand. The Army cannot tolerate it," he said.

The Army said if the Phnom Penh government continued to "misunderstand" Thailand's position "humanitarian assistance might have to be cut back."

Gen Wimon said while Thailand consistently provided humanitarian assistance to Cambodians fleeing fighting in Cambodia, Thai villagers had to suffer from battle spill-overs.

Military Spokesman Denies Support for KR

BK1504141894 Bangkok Radio Thailand Network in Thai 1200 GMT 15 Apr 94

[Text] Lieutenant General Anuson Kritsanaserani, director of the Supreme Command Information Office, has clarified the assertion by the Cambodian Government about support for the Khmer Rouge [KR] by the Thai Armed Forces. He said this issue has already been clarified in detail and urged all sides not to give credence to rumors because doing so could cause a misunderstanding between Thailand and Cambodia.

Regarding the report that Thai tanks were dispatched to support the Khmer Rouge, Anuson said it is false. Such support is impossible and Thailand certainly would not commit such an act. This is because the world would know if Thai tanks were really sent to Cambodia, and Thailand would have been condemned by the world already. Therefore, he assured that Thailand would never have committed such an act because it is a fact that nothing can escape scrutiny.

Regarding the report that the Khmer Rouge recaptured Pailin, Anuson said it has been verified that the report is false and that he did not know the motive of the report.

Prime Minister, Army Chief on Cambodian Charge

BK1904144294 Bangkok Radio Thailand Network in Thai 1200 GMT 19 Apr 94

[Text] The prime minister endorsed the Thai armed forces response to Cambodia's accusation that Thailand is helping the Khmer Rouge. He said we have to respond to and correct the misunderstanding, otherwise it could damage Thailand. He said the Foreign Ministry and concerned agencies had been told to make clarifications on the matter. Asked whether it is time for Thailand to adjust its policy on Cambodia, the prime minister said Thailand's policy is to see peace in Cambodia. If there were no peace in Cambodia, Thailand's border areas would be plagued by the activities of Cambodian bandits. As for the current situation, the prime minister believed it was a result of a misunderstanding. Asked why the service of the joint Thai-Cambodian committee had not been used to settle the problem, the prime minister said there had been only an agreement to set up a joint committee.

The prime minister however said we should not fall prey to the news media. He said that, instead of making charges, Cambodia should seek information from the Thai Foreign Ministry. It should ask Thailand to clarify the matter if there is any doubt about Thailand's behavior or if there is any impact on Cambodia coming from Thailand. Likewise, Thailand would seek information from Cambodia if it had any doubts about Cambodia. The prime minister said that Thailand must find out whether the report is correct and whether there was evidence substantiating the complaints made by Cambodian leaders. He said the foreign minister had been instructed to seek clarifications.

Commenting on the same issue, Army Commander General Wimon Wongwanit said there was no tension in relations between Thailand and Cambodia; relations remain good. He said there is no use getting angry with one another. He said words uttered by leaders of a country or government have great significance for international relations. One has to be careful when making statements because the country stands at risk of suffering damages. He said the army is unhappy with efforts by certain countries to create conflicts between Thailand and Cambodia. Besides, inaccurate news reports by the

media will also have to be taken into account. The army chief said the Cambodian Government should seek clarifications from the Thai Government if it has doubts about Thailand's attitude instead of making accusations which are an insult to Thailand. He said the army cannot accept that. He stressed that the army will not support any faction, noting that the peace and happiness of the Thai people is most important. Thailand will resort to tougher measures if Cambodia's attitude remains unchanged and the two countries are unable to clear up the misunderstanding. Thailand might have to cut its assistance to Cambodia.

Daily Backs Government Stand on Cambodian Charges

BK1904122494 Bangkok MATICHON in Thai 19 Apr 94 p 2

[Editorial: "A Reminder to Cambodia"]

[Text] It is a pity that there is a resurgence of the old attitude Thailand once had toward Cambodia in history. This should not be allowed to happen; it is the duty of both the Thai and Cambodian people to prevent a repeat of history. A feeling of rift is re-emerging between Thailand and Cambodia because Cambodian Government leaders have kept on, unfairly and without substantiation, accusing Thailand of giving help to the Khmer Rouge and its leaders.

The Thai Government, through its Foreign Ministry, has done the right thing in denying the charges and rejecting the condemnations by the Cambodian Government. It has thus given an assurance to the Thai people that neither the government nor the military has in any way committed an improper act, as alleged by the Cambodian Government. Without any clarification from the government, the Thai people could become perplexed by the negative information from the Cambodian Government and doubt the integrity of their own government and military authorities.

Before announcing the statement denying the accusations by the Cambodian leaders, concerned cabinet ministers and security officers—the foreign, defense, and interior ministers, and high-ranking security officers—held a joint meeting at the Foreign Ministry. Although such a joint meeting should have taken place a long time ago, it was a prompt and commendable action taken by the administration, which had an effective psychological impact on the people. The government should display more of this kind of coordination in its work.

The government's statement made clear that Thailand had not helped the Khmer Rouge leaders to escape into Thailand, or had given support in any form to the Khmer Rouge to launch attacks against the Cambodian Government troops. It stated that the accusation made by the Cambodian Government was unfounded. The Thai foreign minister called upon the Cambodian Government

to show the evidence to Thailand since the Cambodian prime minister claimed that he had pictures to substantiate his accusations.

It is now the responsibility of the Cambodian Government—either First Prime Minister Prince Kromluang Norodom Ranariddh or Second Prime Minister Hun Sen—to produce the evidence of Thailand giving help to the Khmer Rouge. If there is no proof for the accusation, the Cambodian Government will be discredited. Through his condemnations of Thailand, Prince Ranariddh has stirred up in the Thai people a negative feeling toward the Cambodian leaders. Prince Kromluang Norodom Ranariddh should not forget that Thailand once served as a refuge for him when his own country was ravaged by war.

Military's Credibility Questioned Over KR Issues

BK1704124894 Bangkok THE SUNDAY NATION in English 17 Apr 94 p A8

[Editorial: "Thai Military Has Credibility Problem on KR Issue"]

[Text] Since 1962, when the World Court awarded the border-straddling temple of Preah Vihear to Cambodia, it has become as much a symbol of strained Thai-Khmer relations as a monument to a once great culture.

Today, the hill-top temple is under the control of the Khmer Rouge and along with patches of other Cambodian territory will remain so, Phnom Penh charges, as long as elements within the Thai military continue to provide the reviled rebel group with support.

The controversy surrounding Thai assistance to the Khmer Rouge goes back some 15 years. But what started as a justifiable, if nakedly self-serving, national security policy in the wake of Vietnam's invasion of Cambodia, is now rapidly spiralling into a dangerous bilateral issue.

In the past week, Phnom Penh has threatened to launch crossborder attacks against Khmer Rouge armoured units it says are hiding in Thai territory and Thai and Cambodian gunners exchanged shellfire. Cambodia is also threatening to take its charges to the UN security council.

When Phnom Penh launched its military drive to recapture Khmer Rouge held territory late last year, it also opened a scrappy diplomatic campaign to focus international attention on allegations that the guerrillas are still receiving support from across the border.

While the military offensive has born mixed results, the diplomatic push has been a stunning success. Many of the allegations emanating from Phnom Penh have been wild and unsubstantiated—such as Ranariddh's claim he had photos of guerrilla leader Pol Pot escaping from the besieged Khmer Rouge base of Pailin into Thailand—but, nevertheless, Thailand has been forced on the defensive. The US ambassador called on Thailand to clarify its

relations with the Khmer Rouge. Visiting Australian Foreign Minister Gareth Evans said he had no doubts Bangkok's expressions of support for Phnom Penh were sincere but then, echoing almost every other diplomat and international observer of the border situation, said, "There may be some individuals who continue to play some kind of supporting role in the Thai business community and some areas of the Thai military."

In the spotlight of international scrutiny that surrounded the attack on Pailin, Thai authorities did not react well. After hurriedly pushing refugees back across the border, and in some cases into Khmer Rouge-held areas, Prime Minister Chuan Likphai callously answered a rebuke from the UN High Commission for Refugees by saying, "We didn't invite them to come here." Army chief Wimon Wongwanit told Geneva to look after the refugees in Switzerland if they were so worried about their welfare.

The responses were unbecoming of the country's highest officials and only served to enhance an international perception that Thailand was indifferent to the suffering of the Cambodian people.

After Cambodian soldiers seized Pailin, photos surfaced of Thai military officers embracing Khmer Rouge cadres. Worse, Thai Rangers admitted that the 838 unit, which was set up to handle covert shipments of arms to the Khmer Rouge during the resistance war against the Vietnamese was still up and running. Military officials had claimed earlier this year that the unit had been disbanded.

Belatedly the government embarked on a course of damage control. The foreign press corps in Phnom Penh, the main mouthpiece for Cambodia's accusations were invited on a border tour. But the journalists were denied access to areas of contention. Returning from the all-expenses-paid trip, the reporters said the only thing they noted of any interest was that the Thai military was still using maps marked Democratic Kampuchea, the name the Khmer Rouge used for the country during their violent rule.

Accusations of Thai support have continued to flow from Phnom Penh this week. On Friday, Bangkok officially protested what it said were "continued groundless accusations".

Earlier in the day, Armed Forces spokesman Lt-Gen [Lieutenant-General] Anuson Krisnaserani denied the tank charges saying:

"Tanks are big, it's impossible to hide them in Thailand and send them to Cambodia. If we were to do that, we would be condemned by the international community," he said.

But Anuson's remarks reflect a failure to understand that as long as this controversy rages Thailand is being condemned—even if silently.

It is not enough for Thailand to merely issue verbal denial after denial. On the issue of support of the Khmer Rouge, the Thai military needs to understand it has a major credibility problem. Why should the rest of the world believe it is not possible for the Khmer Rouge to keep tanks in Thailand when only five months ago 1,500 tonnes of war weapons were found on the Thai side of the border under Cambodian guard? If the Thai government wants this damaging affair to go away it must do more to refute Phnom Penh's charges. Unfair though it may be, the way the world's sympathies lie, the onus is on Thailand to prove it is innocent, not on Phnom Penh to prove its charges have any real foundation.

If there is nothing to hide, why not open the border areas to the local and international press and disprove the widely held belief that Pol Pot maintains a residence in Trat, that Khmer Rouge general Ta Mok runs a service station in Sisaket and that some segments of the Thai military along the frontier continue to maintain close links with the group.

Vietnam

Japan-U.S. Team Signs Oil Development Contract
OW1904133394 Tokyo KYODO in English 1252 GMT 19 Apr 94

[Text] Hanoi, April 19 KYODO—A consortium of three Japanese firms and a U.S. company Tuesday [19 April] signed a contract with the Vietnamese state-run oil corporation to develop oil deposits off Vietnam, company officials said.

The 408 square kilometer deposit, named Blue Dragon, located beneath the ocean floor 400 kilometers off Ho Chi Minh City, is estimated to hold 600 million barrels, the officials said.

The three Japanese firms involved are Japan Petroleum Exploration Corp., Indonesia Petroleum Ltd. and Nissho Iwai Corp., while the American firm is Mobil Corp.

The Japan-U.S. consortium is expected to begin two years of trial drilling in August for prospecting and development, they said.

Under the contract, crude oil produced from the deposits will be divided among the partners, with the Japan-U.S. firms taking 72.5 percent and the Vietnamese company, Petrovietnam, 15 percent, according to the officials.

Of the foreign share, 50 percent will go to Mobil, 25 percent to Japan Petroleum Exploration, 15 percent to Indonesia Petroleum and 10 percent to Nissho Iwai, they said.

Vo Van Kiet Meets With Japan-U.S. Oil Delegation*BK2004015794 Hanoi VNA in English 1438 GMT
19 Apr 94*

[Text] Hanoi VNA April 19—Prime Minister Vo Van Kiet received this afternoon a delegation of the group of Japex/Inpex/Nisaho Iwai (Japan) and Mobil (the United States) which is here to sign a product sharing contract with the Vietnam Oil and Gas Corporation on oil exploration and exploitation off shore south Vietnam.

During the reception, P.M. Vo Van Kiet welcomed Japanese and US oil and gas industrialists to visit Vietnam and sign a product-sharing contract with Vietnam on exploring and exploiting oil and gas at lot 05-1B in the Thanh Long (Blue Dragon) oilfield. He reaffirmed that the group was not only significant in economy, but also indicative of a new step of development in the cooperative relations among Vietnam, Russia, Japan and the US. In addition to the cooperation in oil and gas exploration and exploitation, he said the group would serve as basis for the companies' experience exchanges and technology transfer in conformity with the benefits of all partners.

For his part, Mr. T. Wada, president of Japex Company reaffirmed that with experience of each company, the group expected to broaden their work to other lots in the Thanh Long oilfield, and cooperate with Vietnam in other areas including in exchanges of experience and technology transfer in the interests of each partner and for stability and development of Vietnam.

Earlier, the delegation was received by Communist Party of Vietnam General Secretary Do Muoi.

Phan Van Khai Receives Swedish Economic Delegation*BK2004015594 Hanoi VNA in English 1517 GMT
19 Apr 94*

[Text] Hanoi VNA April 19—Deputy Prime Minister Phan Van Khai received here today an economic delegation of the Swedish Government led by Mr. Alf. T. Samuelsson, vice minister in charge of cooperation and development of the Swedish Foreign Ministry. During the reception, Deputy P. M. [Prime Minister] Phan Van Khai spoke highly of the Swedish Government and people's traditional, constant assistance to Vietnam. He stressed that Vietnam would continue to effectively use Sweden's aid, and welcomed the continuation of the broadening and developing of the economic and commercial cooperation and investment between the two countries in the coming period.

For his part, Mr. Samuelsson reaffirmed that the Swedish Government would continue to broaden its cooperation with Vietnam, particularly in the current renovation process.

Deputy Head of the State Science Commission Vo Hong Phuc and Swedish Ambassador to Vietnam Mats Aberg were also present at the event.

Australia-Vietnam Amity Group Leaders Meet*BK2004095494 Hanoi VNA in English 0623 GMT
20 Apr 94*

[Text] Hanoi VNA April 20—The Vietnam-Australia Friendship Association's Executive Committee held here yesterday a meeting to review its activities in the past six months and work out a plan for the coming period.

The meeting, chaired by Academic Pham Quoc Tuong, the association's president, was also attended by head of the Vietnam Union of Peace, Solidarity, and Friendship Organizations Nguyen Quang Tao, and representatives of the Foreign Ministry and concerned offices.

Agreeing on the success of the association's activities following the two nations' exchange of visits by their top leaders, the participants focussed their discussions on its future plan. As a friendship bridge between Vietnam and Australia, the association will continue its assistance to Australians who come here to explore opportunities for business, to broaden economic, cultural and scientific and technical cooperation with a view to improving the mutual understandings and tightening the friendly relations between the two peoples.

Laos Friendship Delegation Visits*BK2004021594 Hanoi VNA in English 1503 GMT 19
Apr 94*

[Text] Hanoi VNA April 19—A delegation of the Laos-Vietnam Friendship Association, led by its President Maisouk Saisompheng, has paid a working visit to Vietnam as guest of the Vietnam-Laos Friendship Association. While here, the Lao delegation paid tributes to President Ho Chi Minh at his mausoleum and visited his home and office. The delegation was received by Nong Duc Manh politburo member of the Communist Party of Vietnam Central Committee and chairman of National Assembly and Hong Ha, secretary of the party Central Committee.

It had a working session with a delegation of the Vietnam-Laos Friendship Association led by its President Hoang Duc Nghi. The two sides discussed steps to promote the friendship between the two countries. They signed a memorandum of understanding on further cooperation between the two associations. The Lao delegation also visited a number of economic and social establishments in Hanoi, Hoa Binh province, Quang Nam-da Nang province and Ho Chi Minh City.

President Le Duc Anh Visits Haiphong

BK1604100794 Hanoi VNA in English 0622 GMT 16 Apr 94

[Text] Hanoi VNA April 16—President Le Duc Anh paid a visit to and had working sessions with leading officials of the port city of Haiphong from April 12-14.

During the visit, President Le Duc Anh affirmed the important position and great potentials of Haiphong in making it an open-door port city, an industrial, commercial, tourist and service centre, an important transport conjunction in the north and the entire country as a whole, and a key area for the economic development in the region covering Hanoi-Haiphong and the northern coastal of Quang Ninh. The average increase of Haiphong's gross domestic production in the past three years was 10.5 percent. The industrial output annually increased by 13.5 per cent, of which the local figure (made by the local industrial section) was 18.2 per cent. The production of the local traditional products such as cement, woollen carpet, footwear, garment, sea products and ship building and repairing have been restored and developed remarkably. In 1993, some 2.7 million tonnes of goods, were unloaded in the port of Haiphong, four times higher than that of the previous year. So far, Haiphong has entered into 27 joint venture projects with foreigners which were capitalized totally at some USD [U.S. dollars] 650 million. It has also exerted sustained efforts to improve its education, and job training work with the aim to alleviate the unemployment in the city and its suburban areas. President Le Duc Anh urged the party and people of Haiphong to exert more effort to, together with the entire people of Vietnam, step up the renovation process for a wealthy people, strong country and a fair and civilized society.

Nguyen Khanh Pays Working Visit to Provinces

BK1804131894 Hanoi Voice of Vietnam Network in Vietnamese 2300 GMT 17 Apr 94

[Text] Deputy Prime Minister Nguyen Khanh recently paid a working visit to Can Tho, Minh Hai, and Soc Trang provinces. He held working sessions there with leaders of party and people's committees, people's councils, and other agencies. He also heard report on the socioeconomic situation of localities and visited a number of production establishments.

Deputy Prime Minister Nguyen Khanh urged the people's committees to satisfactorily manage the state budget and the implementation of party and state lines and policies on its use and savings. While striving to develop the economy, these provinces must pay special attention to developing society, enhancing the people's intelligence, promoting healthy lifestyles, implementing the family-planning program, opposing social vices, improving the health of children, and carrying out projects to ensure fresh water is provided to the people. As for public welfare projects, efforts must be made to

ensure only essential ones are built, that they are completed according to schedules and meet capital construction principles.

In joining the people of Khmer origin to celebrate the Cambodian traditional new year Chol Chhnam Thmei in Soc Trang Province, Deputy Prime Minister Nguyen Khanh visited a number of Buddhist temples and presented gifts. He also celebrated the occasion with Buddhist monks and the local people, and visited and presented gift to families of the fallen soldiers.

Army Daily Discusses 'Freedom of the Press'

BK1904152594 Hanoi QUAN DOI NHAN DAN in Vietnamese 28 Mar 94 p 1,4

[Article by Tuan Minh: "Something About the Freedom of the Press"]

[Text] With the explosion of communication technology and the increasing number of newspapers under variable forms with their diversified, informative, speedy, and attractive presentation, the Western press has created an impression of unlimited freedom for the press. There are many people who think that in the West, from professional journalists to every citizen, anybody can say and write anything through newspapers and other mass media, and that the public always receives all the information.

We recognize the reality that in the West democracy has had a history of development for more than 200 years, that the laboring people have continuously fought for the rights to freedom and democracy, and that the development of the press can not be detached from the result of that fight. There was a time when the laboring people seized an important part of the press for their own forum to voice their just cause and the truth. There have been many genuine journalists who have fought side by side with the laboring people for social progress.

The prominent movements calling for peace in Vietnam; the ending of the French war of invasion in Indochina, as seen in the French press in 1953-1954; and the stopping of the U.S. war of invasion in Vietnam, as seen in the U.S. newspapers have been a source of great strength for the press. And these movements incurred without the approval of the ruling authorities. In his memoirs, Mr. Kissinger expressed his resentment towards the anti-war press and charged American progressive journalists with abetting "North Vietnamese" and "Vietnamese Communists". So, the chairman of the U.S. National Security Council did not encourage the freedom of the press.

At present, the Western press has been reporting daily on the struggles of the laboring people as they demand better living conditions and democracy. The latter is a true reflection of the profound contradictions in Western society, something the press cannot overlook if it still wants public support.

But the Western press has another significant side. First of all, newspapers and other means of propaganda do not belong to the laboring people. They are in the hands of companies which monopolize the publication and the press. These companies control nearly all the systems of publication and press not only in one nation but also in many countries. They represent or at least have relations in one way or the other with multinational companies, political and economic institutions, and prominent political parties. Here, the press as well as television and radio are in fact centers for production and manipulation of information and public opinion for certain purposes. Information on the Gulf war, which excessively exaggerated the strength of the U.S. Army, and reports on the "crimes" committed by leaders of Eastern European countries and the USSR are now discovered by the public as cheap psychological warfare hidden behind the motto of "objective information."

Meanwhile, the leftist press, especially the communist press, must go through all forms of coercion, ranging from political to economic coercion. And it has to face unbalanced fighting against plentiful anti-communist information.

Approval has been voiced of the fact that the Western press enjoys the right to attack any individual and any organization on any matter it wishes, and that public opinion has been shocked by major scandals and cases of corruption discovered by the press. This tactic of exposing one another's wrongdoings is just a reflection of profound and irreconcilable contradictions in the power struggle of different political institutions and parties. Therefore, we rarely see—and we can say that we have never seen—any newspapers which belong to a certain party and institution expose the mistakes, condemn the wrongdoings, and report the crimes committed by their leader and sponsors.

And the world public can not neglect this "Freedom" of the Western press: "Freedom" to libel, attack, and intervene in other countries' internal affairs. Some radio stations and newspapers, especially the former Radio "Free Europe" and the current Radio "Free Asia," are energetic information agencies which execute this no-need-to-ask-for-permission "Freedom".

When we thoroughly assess the Western press, it is impossible for us not to conclude that it does have the right not to follow any direction; it can say and write whatever it likes. However, it cannot move too far away from the target of praising capitalism—its superiority, eternity, and invincible strength. It can say and write whatever it likes, but it cannot be out of tune with the musical composition against Communism, Marxism-Leninism, and the "prediction" of the inevitable collapse of socialism.

For many decades, Vietnamese revolutionaries have consistently struggled for true freedom of the press, opposed the propaganda tactics of imperialism and colonialism, while combining the struggle for freedom of

the press with that for national independence and the people's fundamental rights. During the colonialist and feudal period, we had to organize the "illegal" secret press network to voice our just cause. Only after the victory of the 1945 August Revolution, would we be able to set up the people's press system that could represent the impetus and aspiration of the people and promote the freedom of expression of the laboring people.

We do not hold freedom of the press as an absolute freedom of individuals as in the case of anarchy. We contend, however, that true freedom of the press is the freedom to express viewpoints aimed at serving national defense and construction, strengthening the people's happiness, liberating mankind and making them dynamic and creative. Through the press, the people are informed of various issues, and are thus enabled to discuss their own interests and that of the nation. Also through the press, the people can voice their protests and opposition against the aggressive and enslaving forces, with all their forms and tactics, and fight against all bad practices, bureaucratism, embezzlement, corruption, and privilege so as to build a healthy society. However, we cannot take freedom of the press as a mean to distort the truth, create fabrications, or turn nonexistence into existence, nor can we take it as a mean to smear history or bias our protracted brilliant struggle for national independence and the people's happiness. As in many other countries, including those in the West, Vietnamese laws do not accept the practice of using the press as a means of inciting public opinion to create unrest and disturb social order and political security. And as in other nations, Vietnam does not tolerate the kind of freedom of the press that demands publication of national secrets.

In the West, some people say that as long as the Vietnamese press cannot strongly promote privatization and ownership of assets and effectively encourage change in the political system, there is no freedom of the press in Vietnam! If this is their concept, it will never happen in our country. This is because the Vietnamese people resolutely reject damaging their revolutionary achievements, which were achieved through sacrifices in blood and bone. They also reject efforts to block their objectives in making the people prosperous, the country powerful, and society just and civilized.

After overcoming numerous inevitable difficulties during the war as well as the limitations caused by the rigid one-way communications system during the bureaucratic, centralized, socioeconomic management system in the past, the Vietnamese press has been consistently changed along with the nation's renovation process. Indeed, changes in the Vietnamese press have greatly contributed to the nation's renovation process, and the latter serves as a basis for changes to and progress of the press. Everyone now can see that news and information are diversified and abundant in the Vietnamese press and that the people now can exercise their freedom of expression through mass media channels.

The law on the press, promulgated in late 1990, is the product of a compilation of ideas concerning freedom of the press and stipulations in various orders of the State President in 1946. It is also the concretization of the citizen's various fundamental rights which have been stipulated in the SRV Constitution.

Naturally, we cannot claim that changes in the Vietnamese press have reached their peak. There are yet many tasks to be fulfilled to overcome the prevailing shortcomings and weaknesses so as to create conditions for the press to better carry out its function as an apparatus to provide news and information to the people and to serve as a forum for the people to express their viewpoints.

Civil Aviation Group Holds Midterm Conference

BK1804091494 Hanoi Voice of Vietnam Network in Vietnamese 1100 GMT 16 Apr 94

[Text] On 15 and 16 of April, the party organization of the Vietnam Civil Aviation Department held their party representatives midterm conference.

Comrade Nguyen Hong Nhi, secretary of the party committee, delivered the report of the party standing committee, in which he pointed out that in the past two years the Vietnam civil aviation sector has recorded new progress in its effective operations and has enhanced its prestige both domestically and internationally. The sector has started to reform its technology, means of transportation, and equipment, and has upgraded many of its facilities, thus effecting a change for the better in the air transport business.

The Vietnam civil aviation sector has stood firm despite fierce competition. It has developed its network of air routes covering purely neighboring markets to include some more complex routes further afield.

The conference set up targets for the next few years, which include overcoming the risk of lagging further behind compared with world and regional aviation services, further developing the level of transport services, constructing and upgrading the infrastructure, and stepping up training in parallel with ensuring safety and efficiency for flights.

Marked Efficiency of Vietnamese Investors Noted

BK1704101394 Hanoi VNA in English 0539 GMT 17 Apr 94

[Text] Hanoi VNA April 17—The efficiency of Vietnamese investors has played a decisive role in the successful implementation of joint ventures with foreign partners in Vietnam, the chairman of the State Committee for Cooperation and Investment (SCCI) told a two-day conference last week.

Cabinet Minister Dau Ngoc Xuan was addressing the conference aimed at reviewing the implementation of the law on foreign investment.

Now, there are about 3,000 Vietnamese entrepreneurs working in foreign-invested enterprises, especially in joint venture enterprises.

According to SCCI, over the past six years the Vietnamese investors had done their best to overcome difficulties and accumulated much experience in investment management. Vietnamese investors drew many foreign partners with a volume of high investment capital aimed at promoting production and commerce, thus creating effective cooperation for mutual benefits, Xuan told the conference.

Over the past six years, the foreign investment enterprises earned USD 780 million through their goods production and service, Xuan said.

However, some of Vietnamese investors involved in management had poor knowledge of the investment law and business practices. Foreign partners, on the other hand, were very experienced and able to overcome difficulties as they arose.

Up to March 1994, SCCI has granted licenses to 900 foreign-invested projects with a total registered capital of USD 8.5 million.

Vietnamese investors said one of the greatest difficulties in executing foreign investment projects was the small contribution of the Vietnamese partner compared with the foreign party.

On average, the Vietnam's contribution to the total capital usually amounts to no more than 30 per cent.

SCCI made known that Vietnamese investors will be granted training courses covering basic knowledge of investment cooperation. In the future the joint venture enterprises expect to receive officially-educated cadres.

SCCI will issue management policies, thus creating better conditions for the Vietnamese investors to become involved in running foreign-invested enterprises. It intends to set up a club for the Vietnamese investors.

Minister Dau Ngoc Xuan said that in the past six years, Vietnam had established a foothold in foreign markets by drawing on the capital of the 500 foreign investor companies from 40 countries.

The government is determined in 1994 to make investment procedures simple, clear-cut and strict so as to make the investment environment in Vietnam more attractive, Minister Dau Ngoc Xuan added.

First Quarter Production Output in 1994 Noted

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[Text] The Statistics General Department reveals that the industrial production output countrywide in the first quarter of 1994 increased by over 11 percent compared with that in the first quarter of 1993. The centrally

managed industry recorded an increase of nearly 13 percent, and the local industry nearly 10 percent.

The main reason for the sizeable increase in industrial output in the last few months is that more and more business establishments of all economic sectors now are

adjusting themselves better to the new economic management structure, thus helping their production activities to settle and develop quickly.

The sectors that achieved a healthy development rate are: the electricity sector with an increase rate of 9 percent, coal production with an increase rate of 7 percent, crude oil with 17 percent, and cement with 12 percent.